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# CBRNE NEWSLETTER TERRORISM

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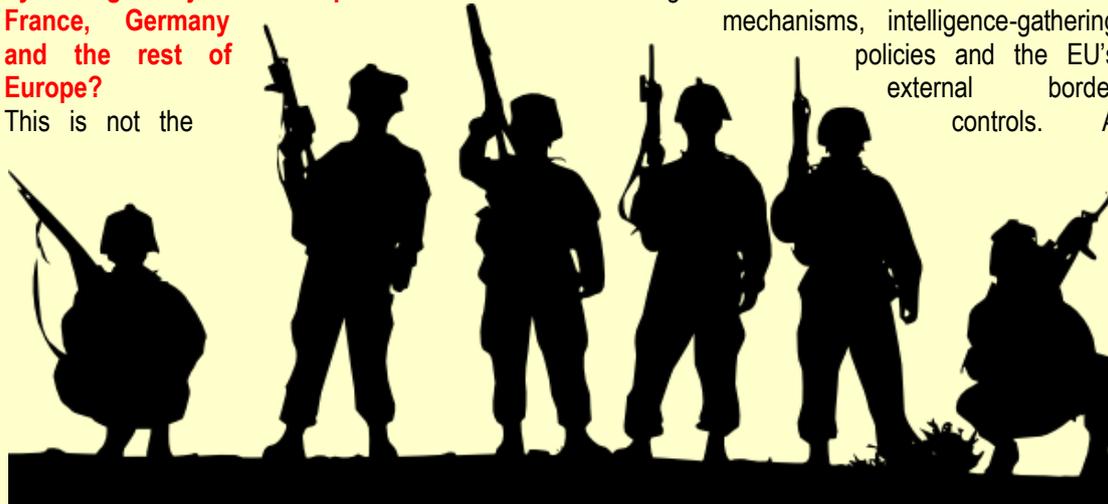
## Don't turn Europe into a militarized surveillance state

By Paul Hockenos

Source: <http://america.aljazeera.com/opinions/2015/1/after-paris-europes-long-view-on-antiterrorism.html>

Jan 24 – Now that some of the shock of the Paris attacks has worn off, Europe has turned its attention to security. **How could such a vicious terrorist act happen in the heart of the city in broad daylight? And how can violence perpetrated in the name of Islam by homegrown jihadists be prevented — in France, Germany and the rest of Europe?**

This is not the



first time Europeans have addressed these questions. Shortly after 9/11 and again in the aftermath of the London and Madrid bombings in 2005 and 2006, new, tighter security measures were put in place across the continent. Now the European Union is scrambling to formulate a policy response to the threat posed by an estimated 2,500 European jihadists fighting for the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) and those who have returned from the front.

It is imperative that European leaders keep a level head to avoid curbing civil liberties and exacerbating the complex and explosive dynamic at play. If fully enforced, existing anti-terrorism laws are largely sufficient to address the threat. Moreover, it can't be forgotten that security also means the safety of Europe's 16 million Muslims whose communities have already been targeted for the attacks in Paris.

As the experience of the U.S. "war on terrorism" amply demonstrates, an emotional overreaction only plays into the strategies of jihadists and their sympathizers. **The Paris attackers sought to throw a wrench into the gears of our democracies, inflame relations between Muslims and non-Muslims and attract future generations of radicals who**

**would take their place in a clash between civilizations. Europe's response to Paris must not abet them.**

### EU-wide intel agency

As Europe's leaders are insisting, one point on the agenda is the review of their surveillance mechanisms, intelligence-gathering policies and the EU's external border controls. A

review of how they've been implemented and why they haven't worked is obviously in order. But planning beyond the next attack also requires thinking broadly about security with a view toward domestic policies that pre-empt exclusion and radicalization, foster integration, create jobs and invigorate a dialogue among and within Europe's religious communities. Some Northern European countries already have effective integration programs. For example, last year Denmark introduced a rehabilitation program that offers jobs and other accommodations to returning jihadist fighters who want to quit the movement.

A Europe-wide intelligence service run by the EU would be a positive step. After all, Europe's jihadists are transnational actors who operate across the EU and between Europe and the Middle East and northern Africa. EU nations already share some intelligence on conflicts and terrorist threats through IntCen, a branch of the EU's foreign affairs office. But IntCen lacks authority. A real EU intelligence unit would pool independent national competencies under one regime that would enable EU states to gain a bigger picture, save money and institutionalize cooperation across



the union. Perhaps a Europe-wide intelligence agency could have picked up on Hayat Boumeddiene, the wife of one of the Paris gunmen, who fled after the attacks from Paris to Syria via Madrid and Turkey.

But a European secret service is unlikely to materialize, as it would require changing the EU treaty. And realistically, the larger EU member states are unlikely to forfeit their national intelligence services willingly. Moreover, an ineffective foreign intelligence service would create a surplus level of bureaucracy that could even hinder efforts to monitor and halt jihadi traffic.

Nevertheless, the Paris killings illustrate the importance of coordination and better information sharing among the national intelligence services in the EU at all times. This can happen bilaterally and within IntCen. Leaders such as German Chancellor Angela Merkel and France's François Hollande, who have been advocating better coordination on fighting terrorism for years, should muster the will to finally make this happen.

### Security versus privacy

European authorities are zeroing in on social media sites and platforms. In France and elsewhere, Internet providers are under increased pressure to help combat extremist propaganda and stop the spread of hatred and violence on the Web. One measure instituted in France after the Paris attacks authorize authorities to shut down without a court order Internet sites that preach jihad. EU nations must tread carefully between effective counterterrorism and the potential violation of privacy and restriction of free speech. The United States' anti-terrorism efforts offer an important lesson: These measures must be accompanied by rigorous judicial and parliamentary oversight.

Europe is, for example, in the process of turning a United Nations resolution on the threat posed by terrorist acts into national law, which would make traveling to conflict zones to fight alongside extremists a criminal offense. In France now "consulting terrorist websites or receiving terrorist training" carries up to 10 years of imprisonment and fines of up to 150,000 euros.

Data retention is another area where a difficult balance must be struck to avoid eroding liberty in the name of security. In April 2014 the EU's highest court overturned the union's data

retention law (adopted in the aftermath of the 2006 Madrid attacks), which required telecom companies to keep data about their users' traffic and location for up to two years. The European Court of Justice ruled that the law violated privacy.

The ruling opens the door to challenges of national data-retention laws, for example in France, where such a law is on the books. In Germany and Austria the laws have already been struck down. Merkel though has underscored her support for a new EU law as soon as possible. While it will be narrower than the 2006 directive, critics say data retention on such a scale is inherently illegal and violates EU norms.

And, of course, in France the data law did not stop this month's attacks, and it's unlikely that new measures to monitor whole populations would be more effective. "Some of the measures under consideration are so sweeping that they would allow the state to monitor the private communications of every citizen," Kevin O'Sullivan, the editor of The Irish Times, wrote in an op-ed on Jan. 18. "They should instead focus on targeted surveillance of those whom they have reasonable grounds to suspect are planning to carry out attacks or encouraging others to do so." He noted that the intelligence failures that preceded the Paris shootings were less the result of inadequate surveillance than an outcome of a job poorly done by the law enforcement officials monitoring the known jihadists.

### Different questions

Conventional anti-terrorism measures will address only the symptoms of Europe's fraught relationship with its Muslim communities and Islam. It must also be asked why radical Islam exerts such a strong pull on socially excluded young Muslim men in Europe's cities and how the cycle of exclusion, radicalization and violence can be broken.

These are questions that politicians, scholars, religious leaders and civil society will have to figure out together. Part of the onus falls on Europe's Muslim communities and their religious leaders who have been too slow in initiating a discourse in their flocks about radicalism, cultural values and tolerance. All of Europe's democrats, including its Muslims, must underscore that the fault lines don't run between Occident



and Orient or Christianity and Islam but rather between democrats and terrorists.

In Germany the dialogue that began nearly a decade ago between the country's Muslim community and the government in the form of the German Islam Conference must be strengthened and intensified. The initiative laid stronger foundations for training the country's imams, promoting gender equality and helping

nip radicalization in the bud. More work in this vein is required across Europe.

Most European nations already have far-reaching anti-terrorism laws and mechanisms. These need to be enforced and fully utilized. The Paris attacks show that we can never be completely safe from terrorism. Turning our societies into militarized, punitive surveillance states won't help.

*Paul Hockenos is a journalist living in Berlin. He has covered the transformations of the EU for over 25 years.*

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** There is no doubt that questions addressed herein are very difficult to be answered conclusively. Some observations though: Roots of terrorism are not mentioned in this analysis – one cannot start from the tip of the iceberg without taking into account what is below sea level. This might answer the quote "we can never be completely safe from terrorism". Then a "European secret service is impossible to materialize since this would require changing the EU treaty" – so what? Why can't we change that? Perhaps we can but we do not want to... Same for intel sharing: we can share intel but we choose not to. Why? And of course the "huge" issue of "privacy". Why cannot define privacy for the same reasons why cannot define terrorism. Perhaps if by law we focus on "security privacy" and protect "not legal affairs" people will feel better. But so far nobody have been accused caught with a third person while been married! Is this our main concern? Who knows...? Also since when Internet equals with freedom of speech and expression. The later of course is about criticism of what is going wrong with the ruling system and daily problems not preaching violence or extremism. Finally militarization of cities is not something the military wants or desire. Almost all constitutions define exactly what the mission of the military is. Military involvement points out the inadequacy of police forces to handle complex urban operations and this equals lack of training, wrong weaponry and old fashion tactics against modern terrorists with superior weaponry and real combat experience. On top of all there is the visible class of civilizations that is most apparent in Europe. New rules o multiculturalism should be established and followed instead of liberal rehabilitation centers that soon will be also proved an expensive bad joke. If Europe wants to keep its peace then member states should re-define the words "European" and "Union".

**Blasphemy, jihad and victimhood**

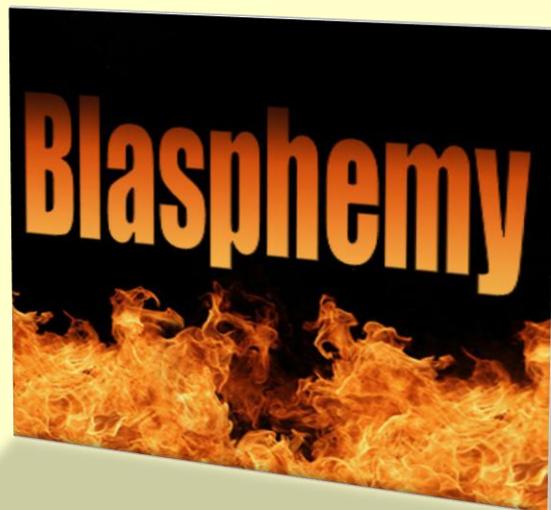
By Owen Bennett-Jones (BBC News)  
 Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-30905543>

The Charlie Hebdo murders marked a tipping point.

By selecting a target that symbolised freedom of speech, the Kouachi brothers - who killed 12 people in their 7 January attack on the satirical magazine in Paris - compelled many Europeans to take a stand.

Media houses that had declined to publish images of the Prophet Muhammad have now done so.

By exposing that much of the West's self-censorship on issues such as blasphemy has



been driven not only by reluctance to cause



offence but also by fear of physical attack, the brothers obliged editors and publishers to find their courage.

And the massive French marches showed that millions - including many Muslims - wanted to express their support for Western values.

But that can't hide the deepening divide in European societies - just listen to the number of times you now hear the words "we" and "they".

While virtually all Muslims see violent Jihadism as a perversion of Islam, there is increasing tendency in the Western media to suggest that violence might be integral at least to a strand of Islamic thinking.

Right-wing, media-monitoring blogs are celebrating the shift, praising any programmes and articles that hint that Islam is regressive.

Of course, most people still accept that the vast majority of Muslims are just as horrified and upset by militant Islamist violence as anyone else. But Muslims are under increasing pressure.

#### **Extremist views**

For years, they have routinely been asked by journalists to condemn violence. Now questions are also being asked about mainstream Muslim opinion on doctrinal issues such as blasphemy.

Many Muslims find now themselves described as extremists not because they support violence but because of their religious views.

When a shopkeeper recently told a BBC radio programme that he loved the Prophet more than his children, many of his fellow countrymen found that difficult, if not impossible, to understand.

The blasphemy issue highlights the depth of the divisions. And while blasphemy used to be conceived as an offence against God, today it's often seen as an offence against the feelings of religious people.

Today in Pakistan, the country with the most blasphemy cases before its courts, the most commonly alleged blasphemous offence is damage to copies of the Koran.

Those accused are sometimes hacked to death by enraged mobs.

Because blasphemy is such an incendiary issue, it is sometimes used to settle scores.

A disproportionate number of cases are brought against members of the Hindu, Christian and Ahmedi minorities. But many Sunni Muslims also get accused.

One Karachi businessman found himself charged with blasphemy for putting the business card of an unsuccessful job applicant named Mohammed in the bin.

When they were in power, the Afghan Taliban prohibited not only visual images of the Prophet but also foreign TV crews filming any living thing.

The restriction they claimed was in line with Islamic teachings, although the Taliban hardly helped burnish their religious credentials by making exceptions for Taliban ministers who wanted to make important statements.

#### **Limiting free speech**

While Westerners tend to view such bans as obscurantist and ridiculous, it was only 30 years ago that some local councils in the UK tried to ban cinemas showing Monty Python's religious satire Life of Brian.

In Ireland, long dominated by the Catholic Church, remnants of such attitudes remain in the constitution, which bans "the publication or utterance of blasphemous, seditious, or indecent matter".

In 2009 the Irish parliament passed legislation that spelt out the offence in more specific terms: "publishing or uttering matter that is grossly abusing or insulting in relation to matters held sacred by any religion thereby intentionally causing outrage among a substantial number of adherents of that religion".

Supporters of the clause hoped that the inclusion of words such as "intentionally" and "substantial" would underpin freedom of speech by setting out possible grounds on which to mount defences of allegedly blasphemous acts.

But to their dismay, Pakistan picked up the wording and proposed to the UN Human Rights Council that it be adopted internationally.

The attempt failed and, fearful of becoming model of how to limit free speech, Ireland is due to hold a referendum that would remove the blasphemy article from the constitution with a view to replacing it with legislation on hate speech.

The extent to which blasphemy and hate speech overlap is contested. Some argue that blasphemy should be stripped of its religious associations and that to insult anything held sacred by another is blasphemous.



**Muslim sensitivities**

But this somewhat abstruse, semantic argument risks concealing the issues at stake - should religion be afforded special legislative or even constitutional protection?

And how can religious extremists be stopped from reacting to offence with violence?

Before the cartoonists were gunned down in Paris, the only Westerners fully engaged in these questions were hard-core freedom of speech advocates.

Violent demonstrations in Afghanistan protesting against US soldiers desecrating Korans were relegated to down-bulletin stories that left many viewers baffled as to why everyone was getting so worked up.

That has changed. Blasphemy is the lead story now with political chat show hosts asking: "What is it? How come people take the issue so seriously?"

And shouldn't secular West European countries worry about racist or misogynist speech as much as blasphemy?"

Such discussions almost always develop into a row about power. Political Islamists and Western liberals often argue that Muslim sensitivities about public challenges to their faith and identity are informed by the fact that over time they have been colonised, invaded, tortured and falsely imprisoned by Westerners.

The US and Israel, they argue, are the subject of so much invective and even violence because, for all their talk of human rights, they hypocritically use their own strength to oppress Muslims, whether in Iraq or Gaza. Furthermore, it is argued, Muslims are singled out for abuse.

Thus, while the Charlie Hebdo management sacked a cartoonist for anti-Semitism, it did not hesitate to publish anti-Islamic cartoons.

These arguments about the unequal distribution of power are bolstered by socio-

economic surveys within Western countries. Muslims are often at the bottom of rankings measuring people's health, employability and educational levels.

Critics of political Islamism often respond to these arguments by saying - not very convincingly - that attempts to explain violent jihadism are akin to condoning it.

But they also make more substantial claims - that while Islamists exaggerate and even wallow in their sense of victimisation, they don't get so angry about the persecution of and discrimination against minorities in Muslim-majority countries.

After all, Christians in the so-called Islamic State and Shias in Saudi Arabia are even more marginalised than Muslims in Europe.

Islamism's opponents also ask whether the religion should be granted unique protections just because some of its adherents feel weak and vulnerable. Might affording Islam special protection from criticism and satire even be racist?

After all it seems to be predicated on the view that the Muslim community is incapable of responding to criticism and satire with calm, rational debate.

It all depends how you look at it. How, for example, do you interpret the fact that when the Kouachi brothers fled the Charlie Hebdo offices they yelled: "We have avenged the Prophet?" Some see that as a sign that Islam teaches not peace but violence.

But others reckon the brothers were in fact using the blasphemy issue as a vehicle to express the frustration, anger and powerlessness that come with being the sons of Algerian migrants, alienated and unable to get a fair chance in the society they were born into.

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**Bid to install 'gunfire detectors' in public buildings**

Source: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/uknews/terrorism-in-the-uk/11355650/Bid-to-install-gunfire-detectors-in-public-buildings.html>

**Train stations, shopping centres and hospitals could be fitted with new technology which identifies the sound of gunfire to speed up police response times in the event of a Paris-style attack.**

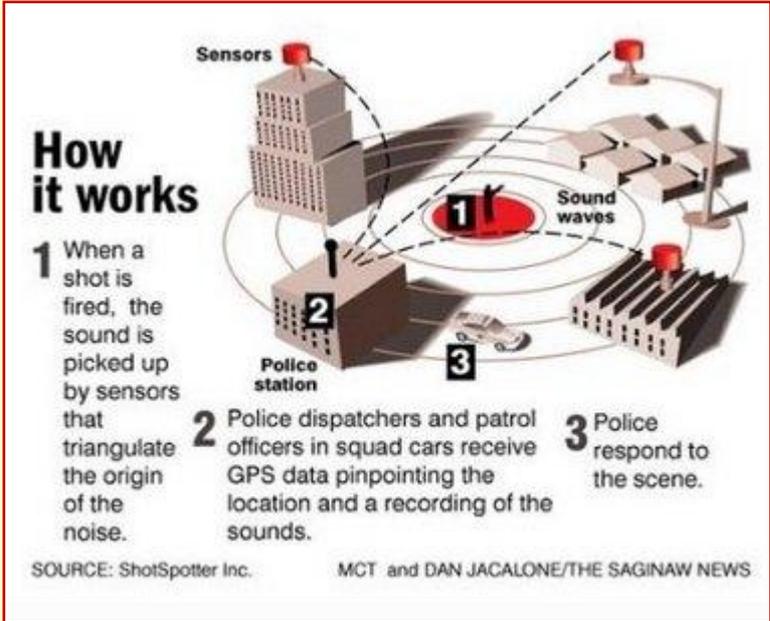
Politicians on the Greater London Authority are pressing for a £3 million pilot scheme which would see the gunshot detectors secretly installed in public buildings.

They could also be introduced in museums or other crowded buildings which could be targeted by terrorists with automatic weapons.



The fire alarm-sized devices are already common in the United States, where schools have been installing the equipment in a bid to deter Columbine-style shooting sprees.

Roger Evans, the Conservative's crime spokesman on the authority, said: "One of the major issues during a live shooting situation is the time it takes to call the police.



“People first have to make life or death decisions to protect themselves, before being in a position to use their phone, delaying response times.

“An alarm system detecting gunfire would automatically alert authorities to a live incident.

“It would remove the need to make emergency calls in the first place, cutting response times by several minutes and saving lives in the process.”

He proposed installing the detectors in 50 buildings as part of an initial pilot, with the identities of the trial locations kept confidential.

The equipment is estimated to cost between £13,000 and £65,000, depending on the building size and layout.



It uses microphones and infra red cameras to detect a gun being fired, and then automatically alerts police.

Andrew Boff, the Conservative leader on the authority, said: "This technology could save a few vital seconds."

Mr Evans last week wrote to the Boris Johnson, the Mayor of London; Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner; and Theresa May, the Home Secretary, urging them to back the scheme.



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### ADC: 'American Sniper' prompts threats to Arabs, Muslims

Source: <http://www.worldbulletin.net/world/153723/adc-american-sniper-prompts-threats-to-arabs-muslims>

Arab-American civil rights organization has asked "American Sniper" director Clint Eastwood and actor Bradley Cooper to denounce hateful language directed at U.S. Arabs and Muslims after the release of the Hollywood duo's film about a Navy marksman.

The American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) said in a letter to Eastwood and Cooper that its members had become targets of "violent threats" since early last week, days before "American Sniper" went into general release.



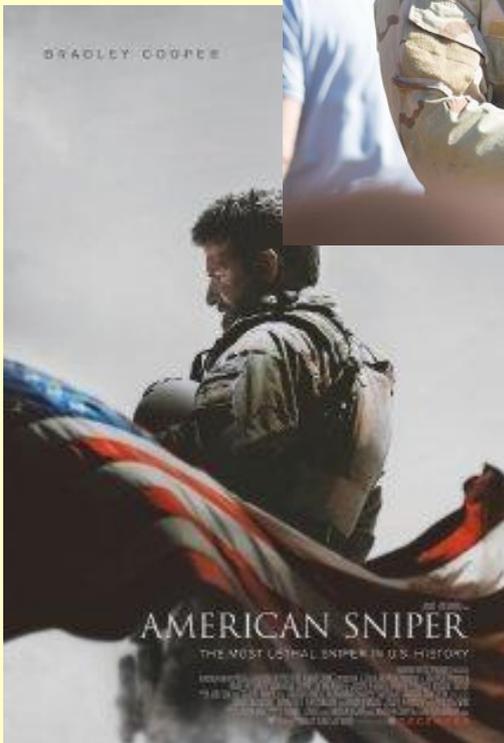
The civil rights organization notes that moviegoers taking to social media to express their desire to murder Arabs and Muslims after leaving the theater.

The film is nominated for six Academy Awards, including best picture, and is a box office hit.

The ADC said it was working with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and police to assess the threats. The letter said that

In stark contrast, Hollywood sanitizes Kyle, humanizing him as a complex, likable and anguished hero.

Under the threatening circumstances, the



Eastwood and Cooper, the film's producer and star, could add credibility to the ADC's message of tolerance.

The film tells the story of Chris Kyle, a Navy SEAL who was a sniper in Iraq. Kyle had 160 kills in Iraq, a count that is considered the highest in U.S. military history. Many believe that the film sanitizes the depiction of Kyle, who called Muslims "savages" in his memoir, and that the film glorifies war.

"Savage, despicable evil. That's what we were fighting in Iraq," Kyle writes in his book.

"I only wish I had killed more," he writes, adding, "I loved what I did ... It was fun. I had the time of my life."

Kyle goes on to confess, "I don't shoot people with Korans – I'd like to, but I don't."

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee is encouraging Arab, Muslim, South Asian and Sikh-American communities to be on alert and report any hate crimes to the authorities. More than 100 have been collected, all on social media.

"Nice to see a movie where the Arabs are portrayed for who they really are - vermin scum intent on destroying us," said one Twitter post collected by the ADC.

"It is our opinion that you could play a significant role in assisting us in alleviating the danger we are facing," the letter, dated Jan. 21, said. A copy was provided to Reuters on Saturday.

Kyle was killed by a disgruntled U.S. veteran at a gun range near his Texas home in early 2013.

ADC President Samer Khalaf said on Saturday that it did not make sense to call for a boycott of the film because of its success at the box office.

"People are going to see the movie. If we boycott it, it will only cause people to want to see it more," he said.

Khalaf said public statements from Eastwood and Cooper, as well as calming tensions, would send a message that "Arabs are Americans and Muslims are Americans."





He said he has not received a response from Eastwood or Cooper.

Spokesmen for Eastwood and Cooper had no immediate response to requests for comment.

## Add this to Greece's list of problems: It's an emerging hub for terrorists

By Tim Lister and Ioannis Mantzikos

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/01/25/europe/greece-terrorism-hub/>

Jan 26 – The new Greek government has plenty of challenges ahead of it: A towering debt, chronic unemployment and relations with the rest of Europe. But it also has an urgent security problem. Greece has become an unwitting crossroads – both for jihadists trying to reach Iraq and Syria from Europe, and for fighters returning home from the Middle East.

**Greece's long land and maritime boundaries, its proximity to Turkey, the explosion of illegal migration from Syria and the country's dire financial situation make it an inviting hub for jihadist groups,** according to multiple counterterrorism sources.

One source close to the Greek intelligence services told CNN there may be some 200 people in the country with links to jihadist groups such as the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) or the al Nusra Front – the two groups that most Europeans join.

### Among recent cases with a Greek connection:

- Belgian officials believe that Abdelhamid Abaaoud, a prominent Belgian jihadist within ISIS, may have traveled from Syria to Greece and then communicated by phone with the terrorist cell recently broken up by Belgian police.
- Earlier this month, three young Belgians were arrested at Charleroi airport as they prepared to fly to Greece. The Belgian Prosecutor's Office says they have been charged with participation in a terror group.
- On January 17, Greek police arrested a 33-year old Algerian man whose extradition was sought by Belgium in connection with last week's raids. The man, who has not been named, has protested his innocence.
- Last year, two French jihadists were arrested after using Greek soil to return home. One was arrested after passing through Italy. One was Ibrahim Boudina, a 23-year-old French national born in Algiers. Greek border guards had found in his possession a USB stick with instructions for how to make homemade bombs. They did not detain him, but tipped off French investigators, who later found bomb-making equipment and devices in his apartment near Cannes. Boudina has denied terror charges and awaits trial.

**What's unknown is how many jihadists are traveling individually – in either direction – and how many are using support networks.**

### 'Not a target, just a gateway'

**"Greece is not a target, just a gateway into Europe and a stop on the fighters' return home,"** said the source close to Greek intelligence.

**"The large immigrant communities in Greece, and particularly in Athens, are in a position to provide jihadists and others associated with such groups with housing and generally help them remain anonymous,"** the source said.

In 2011, Greek authorities detained nearly 50,000 illegal migrants from Afghanistan and Pakistan, according to police figures.

One analyst who has studied jihadist travel patterns says there are indications that militants are setting up logistical, recruitment and financial cells in Greece, in part to facilitate the travel of a growing number of would-be fighters traveling from Kosovo and Albania.

ISIS has produced several propaganda videos featuring Kosovars appealing to their countrymen to join them, and the Kosovo authorities believe some 200 individuals have left to wage jihad in Iraq and Syria.

But it's not just the Balkans that's providing the travelers.



"We estimate that about 2,000 people have used Greece in the last two years or so, mainly arriving by boat from Italy, as a stop to an onward journey," the source close to the intelligence services told CNN. "Given the number of people who have left Europe for Syria and the Middle East we don't regard this number as very high. But there is a good chance that it is much greater than we know at this point," he added.

#### **Inflow to Greece soars with Syria's implosion**

**Coming in the other direction, the number of migrants trying to reach Europe illegally has soared since Syria's implosion, especially by sea.** Many head to Greece and Italy on rust-buckets that trawl the Turkish coast seeking out the desperate.

**John M. Nomikos, director of the Research Institute for European and American Studies in Athens, says many migrants have their documents taken by human traffickers and then seek political asylum when they get to Greece.** Nomikos says a few of those who arrive in Greece subsequently marry Greek women and receive Greek ID cards or passports, allowing them to travel through much of the European Union.

Figures from the European Union's border agency, Frontex, show that 270,000 people tried to enter Europe illegally in 2014 -- with huge increases in the numbers setting off across the central and eastern Mediterranean. Whether ISIS or other groups are already exploiting this influx to infiltrate members into Europe is one of the worrying unknowns to European officials.

**The Greek Interior Ministry acknowledges it has little idea of the number of people living illegally in Greece.** Nomikos and others say the Greek authorities' ability to track asylum-seekers and would-be jihadists has been hard hit by six years of recession -- a time in which budgets have been cut and senior members of the intelligence communities have lost their jobs or retired early.

**Combined with political appointments in the security services, and a lack of terrorism specialists, Nomikos says this has led to a damaging "expertise deficit" at a time when threats are multiplying.**

It doesn't help that Greek police are preoccupied with the remnants of the far-left November 17 group that occasionally launches sabotage attacks and carries out assassinations.

#### **Help needed from its Western allies**

Nomikos also says there is inadequate coordination between the National Intelligence Service, the police and other agencies -- and that Greece badly needs help from the U.S. or European government to reform its security services.

**"The country urgently needs a Department of Homeland Security in order to coordinate the intelligence-sharing among the Greek intelligence service (NIS-EYP), anti-terrorism squad intelligence unit" as well as police, coastguard and military intelligence, Nomikos says.**

The Balkan states to the north of Greece have become a major source of weapons to jihadist cells elsewhere in Europe, and some analysts believe that militant groups in the Middle East may also be tapping into this illicit arms bazaar.

In November, Albanian police arrested eight people in the town of Shijak and seized guns and ammunition. Prosecutors were quoted in Albanian media as saying the weapons were destined for Syria or Iraq.

In the wake of the Paris attacks this month, Federica Mogherini, the European Union's foreign policy chief, promised better intelligence sharing across the EU and with affected Arab states to tackle terrorism.

**An EU summit on February 12 will address the issue, to be followed by a similar gathering in Washington the following week.** Whatever the Syriza government's disagreements with its partners on economic policy, it will likely welcome a more coordinated approach on a danger it is unable to confront alone.

*Ioannis Mantzikos is a researcher and consultant on Islam in Africa and terrorism issues based in Athens. Elinda Labropoulou contributed to this report.*

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## Mass Surveillance Will Not Stop Terrorism – Let's do the math

By Ray Corrigan

Source:[http://www.slate.com/articles/health\\_and\\_science/new\\_scientist/2015/01/mass\\_surveillance\\_against\\_terrorism\\_gathering\\_intelligence\\_on\\_all\\_is\\_statistically.html](http://www.slate.com/articles/health_and_science/new_scientist/2015/01/mass_surveillance_against_terrorism_gathering_intelligence_on_all_is_statistically.html)



**Some U.K. politicians are trying once again to pass mass surveillance laws after the Paris attacks. It's a misguided approach, says a computing researcher.**

In response to the terrorist attacks in Paris, the U.K. government is redoubling its efforts to engage in mass surveillance.

Prime Minister David Cameron wants to reintroduce the so-called snoopers' charter—properly, the Communications Data Bill—which would compel telecom companies to keep records of all Internet, email, and cellphone activity. He also wants to ban encrypted communications services.

Cameron seems to believe terrorist attacks can be prevented if only mass surveillance, by the U.K.'s intelligence-gathering center GCHQ and the U.S. National Security Agency, reaches the degree of perfection portrayed in his favorite TV dramas, where computers magically pinpoint the bad guys. Computers don't work this way in real life and neither does mass surveillance.

Brothers Said and Cherif Kouachi and Amedy Coulibaly, who murdered 17 people, were known to the French security services and considered a serious threat. France has blanket electronic surveillance. It didn't avert what happened.

Police, intelligence, and security systems are imperfect. They process vast amounts of imperfect intelligence data and do not have the resources to monitor all known suspects 24/7. The French authorities lost track of these

extremists long enough for them to carry out their murderous acts. You cannot fix any of this by treating the entire population as suspects and then engaging in suspicionless, blanket collection and processing of personal data.

Mass data collectors can dig deeply into anyone's digital persona but don't have the resources to do so with everyone. Surveillance of the entire population, the vast majority of whom are innocent, leads to the diversion of limited intelligence resources in pursuit of huge numbers of false leads. Terrorists are comparatively rare, so finding one is a needle-in-a-haystack problem. You don't make it easier by throwing more needleless hay on the stack.

**It is statistically impossible for total population surveillance to be an effective tool for catching terrorists.**

**Even if your magic terrorist-catching machine has a false positive rate of 1 in 1,000—and no security technology comes anywhere near this—every time you asked it for suspects in the U.K. it would flag 60,000 innocent people.**

Law enforcement and security services need to be able to move with the times, using modern digital technologies intelligently and through targeted data preservation—not a mass surveillance regime—to engage in court-supervised technological surveillance of individuals whom they have reasonable cause to suspect. That is not; however, the



same as building an infrastructure of mass surveillance.

Mass surveillance makes the job of the security services more difficult and the rest of us less secure.

*Ray Corrigan is a senior lecturer in mathematics, computing, and technology at the Open University, U.K.*

## Why Does the NSA Engage in Mass Surveillance of Americans When It's Statistically Impossible for Such Spying to Detect Terrorists?

By Floyd Rudmin

Source: <http://www.counterpunch.org/2006/05/24/why-does-the-nsa-engage-in-mass-surveillance-of-americans-when-it-s-statistically-impossible-for-such-spying-to-detect-terrorists/>



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The Bush administration and the National Security Agency (NSA) have been secretly monitoring the email messages and phone calls of all Americans. They are doing this, they say, for our own good. To find terrorists. Many people have criticized NSA's domestic spying as unlawful invasion of privacy, as search without search warrant, as abuse of power, as misuse of the NSA's resources, as unConstitutional, as something the communists would do, something very unAmerican.

In addition, however, mass surveillance of an entire population cannot find terrorists. It is a probabilistic impossibility. It cannot work.

What is the probability that people are terrorists given that NSA's mass surveillance identifies them as terrorists? If the probability is zero ( $p=0.00$ ), then they certainly are not terrorists, and NSA was wasting resources and damaging

the lives of innocent citizens. If the probability is one ( $p=1.00$ ), then they definitely are terrorists, and NSA has saved the day. If the probability is fifty-fifty ( $p=0.50$ ), that is the same as guessing the flip of a coin. The conditional probability that people are terrorists given that the NSA surveillance system says they are, that had better be very near to one ( $p_{.1.00}$ ) and very far from zero ( $p=0.00$ ).

**The mathematics of conditional probability was figured out by the Scottish logician Thomas Bayes. If you Google "Bayes' Theorem", you will get more than a million hits. Bayes' Theorem is taught in all elementary statistics classes. Everyone at NSA certainly knows Bayes' Theorem.**



To know if mass surveillance will work, Bayes' theorem requires three estimations:

- 1) The base-rate for terrorists, i.e. what proportion of the population are terrorists.
- 2) The accuracy rate, i.e., the probability that real terrorists will be identified by NSA;
- 3) The misidentification rate, i.e., the probability that innocent citizens will be misidentified by NSA as terrorists.

No matter how sophisticated and super-duper are NSA's methods for identifying terrorists, no matter how big and fast are NSA's computers, NSA's accuracy rate will never be 100% and their misidentification rate will never be 0%. That fact, plus the extremely low base-rate for terrorists, means it is logically impossible for mass surveillance to be an effective way to find terrorists.

I will not put Bayes' computational formula here. It is available in all elementary statistics books and is on the web should any readers be interested. But I will compute some conditional probabilities that people are terrorists given that NSA's system of mass surveillance identifies them to be terrorists.

The US Census shows that there are about 300 million people living in the USA.

**Suppose that there are 1,000 terrorists there as well, which is probably a high estimate.**

The base-rate would be 1 terrorist per 300,000 people. In percentages, that is .00033% which is way less than 1%. Suppose that NSA surveillance has an accuracy rate of .40, which means that 40% of real terrorists in the USA will be identified by NSA's monitoring of everyone's email and phone calls. This is probably a high estimate, considering that terrorists are doing their best to avoid detection. There is no evidence thus far that NSA has been so successful at finding terrorists. And suppose NSA's misidentification rate is .0001, which means that .01% of innocent people will be misidentified as terrorists, at least until they are investigated, detained and interrogated. Note that .01% of the US population is 30,000 people. With these suppositions, then the probability that people are terrorists given that NSA's system of surveillance identifies them as terrorists is only  $p=0.0132$ , which is near zero, very far from one. Ergo, NSA's surveillance system is useless for finding terrorists.

Suppose that NSA's system is more accurate than .40, let's say, .70, which means that 70% of terrorists in the USA will be found by mass

monitoring of phone calls and email messages. Then, by Bayes' Theorem, the probability that a person is a terrorist if targeted by NSA is still only  $p=0.0228$ , which is near zero, far from one, and useless.

Suppose that NSA's system is really, really, really good, really, really good, with an accuracy rate of .90, and a misidentification rate of .00001, which means that only 3,000 innocent people are misidentified as terrorists. With these suppositions, then the probability that people are terrorists given that NSA's system of surveillance identifies them as terrorists is only  $p=0.2308$ , which is far from one and well below flipping a coin. NSA's domestic monitoring of everyone's email and phone calls is useless for finding terrorists.

NSA knows this. Bayes' Theorem is elementary common knowledge. So, why does NSA spy on Americans knowing it's not possible to find terrorists that way? Mass surveillance of the entire population is logically sensible only if there is a higher base-rate. Higher base-rates arise from two lines of thought, neither of them very nice:

- 1) McCarthy-type national paranoia;
- 2) Political espionage.

The whole NSA domestic spying program will seem to work well, will seem logical and possible, if you are paranoid. Instead of presuming there are 1,000 terrorists in the USA, presume there are 1 million terrorists. Americans have gone paranoid before, for example, during the McCarthyism era of the 1950s. Imagining a million terrorists in America puts the base-rate at .00333, and now the probability that a person is a terrorist given that NSA's system identifies them is  $p=.99$ , which is near certainty. But only if you are paranoid. If NSA's surveillance requires a presumption of a million terrorists, and if in fact there are only 100 or only 10, then a lot of innocent people are going to be misidentified and confidently mislabeled as terrorists.

The ratio of real terrorists to innocent people in the prison camps of Guantanamo, Abu Ghraib, and Kandahar shows that the US is paranoid and is not bothered by mistaken identifications of innocent people. The ratio of real terrorists to innocent people on Bush's no-fly lists shows that the Bush administration is not bothered by mistaken identifications of innocent Americans.



Also, mass surveillance of the entire population is logically plausible if NSA's domestic spying is not looking for terrorists, but looking for something else, something that is not so rare as terrorists. For example, the May 19 Fox News opinion poll of 900 registered voters found that 30% dislike the Bush administration so much they want him impeached. If NSA were monitoring email and phone calls to identify pro-impeachment people, and if the accuracy rate were .90 and the error rate were .01, then the probability that people are pro-

impeachment given that NSA surveillance system identified them as such, would be  $p=.98$ , which is coming close to certainty ( $p_{.1.00}$ ). Mass surveillance by NSA of all Americans' phone calls and emails would be very effective for domestic political intelligence. But finding a few terrorists by mass surveillance of the phone calls and email messages of 300 million Americans is mathematically impossible, and NSA certainly knows that.

*Floyd Rudmin is Professor of Social & Community Psychology at the University of Tromsø in Norway.*

## No crime to belong to Islamic State, al-Qaida or IRA

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/politics/2015/jan/25/terrorist-organisation-membership-no-crime-say-greens>

**Belonging to an organisation such as Islamic State, al-Qaida or the IRA should not be a crime in itself because people should be punished for what they do, not what they think, Natalie Bennett, (photo) the Green party leader, said on Sunday (Jan 24).**

She said legislation that made it an offence merely to belong to certain organisations was outdated and it was important for the government to defend the principle of freedom of speech.



The politician was speaking in an interview on the BBC's Sunday Politics where she was asked to defend Green party policy – which says that just belonging to a terrorist organisation, or having sympathy with its aims, should not be a crime.

**There are 65 international terrorist organisations and 14 Irish ones proscribed under UK terrorist legislation.**

Belonging to those organisations, which include Islamic State, al-Qaida and the IRA, or even just showing support for them by wearing uniform or carrying flags is a criminal offence.

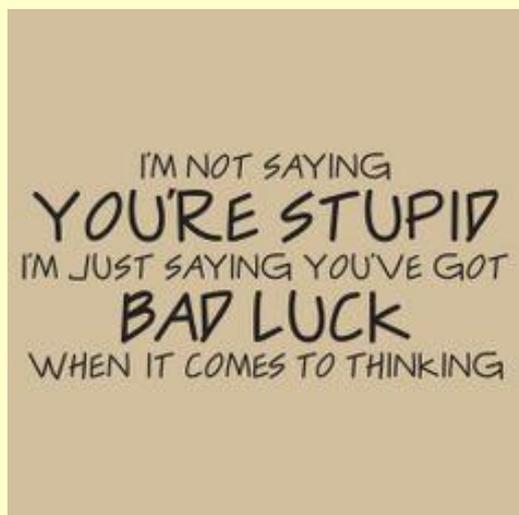
Bennett said she thought this was wrong. "What we want to do is make sure we are not punishing people for what they think or what they believe," she said.

"Obviously actions of inciting violence, supporting violence, those are absolutely unacceptable, illegal and should be pursued to the full extent of the law."

She added: "What we are talking about is a principle that you shouldn't be punished for what you think. And we need to balance – we do not protect freedom by destroying it."

In the interview, Bennett also confirmed she would represent the Greens in both planned leaders' debates to which the party has been invited.

At one point Caroline Lucas, the Green MP, had suggested Bennett might take part in just one of them.



## Abandoned ships threaten maritime safety

Source: <http://sunnewsonline.com/new/?p=101913>



**The Nigerian maritime domain is facing the worrisome challenge of increasing number of shipwrecks and abandoned vessels that litter its navigable channels.**

The development, experts say, constitutes grave security and safety challenge as criminal elements now using the wrecks as a base to attack serviceable ships at berth.

The shipwrecks are now also contributing to boat mishaps in recent times

as reports of some investigated boat accidents indicated that poorly lit passenger boats run into abandoned vessels at night, which, at times have no signs to indicate their location or the danger they pose.

The management of ENL Consortium, operators of terminals 'C' and 'D' at the Lagos Ports Complex (LPC) last week raised the alarm over the issue of abandoned vessels on Lagos waters, saying that **criminals now use the wrecks as a base to access the terminal to vandalise carsaying that criminals now use goes.**

The Head, Security Safety and Environment Manager of the terminal, Mr. Oyinloye Raphael, while briefing the Port Police on the development insisted that series of attacks on cargoes at the terminal have been traced to the

bandits who often hibernate in the abandoned ships before launching the attacks.

**He disclosed that the miscreants use smaller crafts like canoes to ferry themselves back to the wreck on Lagos waters after unleashing terror on the terminals.**

“At night, the abandoned vessels are illuminated by torchlights, which further authenticate the presence of criminals on board the wrecked vessels.”

He urged NIMASA as the Designated Authority (DA) for the International Ships and Ports Facility Security (ISPS) Code to assist the Western Port Police authority in the area of equipment in ensuring that the terminals enjoy police protection.

“It is the duty of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency (NIMASA) as the Designated Authority (DA) to remove all wrecks that serve as a threat to our economy and waters and if they do, it will solve some of our problems,” he said.

Daily Sun’s investigations reveal that the Federal Government has already awarded contracts for the wrecks’ removal but the evacuation has been stalled by litigations by owners of the abandoned vessels who still



use them as evidence of collateral for loans they collected from banks.

The Director General/Chief Executive of NIMASA, Dr. Ziakede Patrick Akpobolokemi, at a recent meeting with journalists revealed that the first phase of the contract for wrecks' removal covers Lagos and the South South areas of the country.

He added that plans are afoot to rid the entire Nigerian waters of wrecks in line with government's port modernisation programme.

**He, however, said removing the wrecks was being hampered by litigation as ship**

**owners use their abandoned vessels as a trap to arm-twist the agency into paying compensation for removing such wrecks.**

**"They'll tell you the ship you removed was still serviceable and as such we should pay N10 billion as compensation for a ship that was bought for about N100 million and has worked for over 20 years.** Before you know it, they drag the management to court. These are some of the issues we face, though we're not deterred. We have to fulfill the mandate given to us by the Federal Government," he said.

## Terrorism Women more active in extremist Islamist groups than previously thought

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150127-women-more-active-in-extremist-islamist-groups-than-previously-thought>

**About 10 percent of ISIS recruits from Europe, and about 20 percent of recruits from France, are women.**

Though they tend to play a supportive role in the Islamic extremism narrative, women can be just as radical. "What's very striking is that she's not an exception; she's an example of a trend," one expert says of Hayat Boumeddiene, the 26-year old partner of Paris gunman Amedy Coulibaly. "There tends to be an assumption with women that they're doing it under influence, they're being forced or tricked. But I think there's a more complicated story here, feelings of alienation."

Hayat Boumeddiene, the 26-year old partner of Paris gunman Amedy Coulibaly, is one of many European women believed to have traveled to Syria to join extremist groups such as the Islamic State (ISIS) and al-Qaeda. According to Jayne Huckerby, an associate professor at Duke University law school who studies terrorist groups and advises governments on counterterrorism strategies, women account for roughly 10 percent of ISIS recruits from Europe and about 20 percent of recruits from France. Though they tend to play a supportive role in the Islamic extremism narrative, women can be just as radical. "What's very striking is that she's not an exception; she's an example of a trend," Huckerby said of Boumeddiene. "There tends to be an assumption with women that they're doing it under influence, they're being

forced or tricked. But I think there's a more complicated story here, feelings of alienation."

A childhood friend of Boumeddiene, speaking on condition of anonymity to the newspaper *Le Parisien*, described her as "impulsive," emotionally fragile, and prone to sending religious text messages and venting about her growing sense of alienation as a Muslim.

The *Los Angeles Times* points out that as was the case with Cherif and Said Kouachi, the brothers who attacked the *Charlie Hebdo* office in Paris, Boumeddiene spent a few years as a ward of the state. One of seven children born in Paris to Algerian parents, she was sent to foster care at age twelve after her mother died and her father remarried. French newspaper *Le Journal du Dimanche* reported that Boumeddiene was expelled from foster homes for assaulting social workers, and later moved in with a friend in a Paris suburb. She met Coulibaly in 2007, shortly after he served time for robbery at Fleury-Merogis Prison, where he met Cherif Kouachi and other radical Muslims.

For the first few years as a couple, Boumeddiene and Coulibaly did not show any extremist views. Their social media photos included beach photos in which Boumeddiene wore a bikini and posed for photos alongside Coulibaly. They married in 2009 in a religious ceremony not recognized by the French government, French police union spokesman Christophe Crepin





said. The couple later began to visit a Muslim extremists in central France, and in 2010 she posed for photos in which she wore a veil and aimed a crossbow at the camera. When counterterrorism investigators questioned Boumeddiene later that year, she spoke of “innocents killed by the Americans,” but insisted that Coulibaly was not a radical. “Amedy isn’t really very religious. He likes having fun,” she told the investigators.

French law enforcement did not have evidence or reason to charge or monitor Boumeddiene at the time so she was released from questioning. “Until we had proof to the contrary, we had to accept that she felt that way,” Crepin said.

Three years later, Coulibaly was sentenced to five years in prison for his part in a failed plan to break out from prison Smain Ait Ali Belkacem (planner of the 1995 Paris Metro bombings). He was released early in March 2014. Boumeddiene, then a friend of Cherif Kouachi’s wife, traded more than 500 cellphone calls with her in 2014.

“They used the women, it’s clear,” Crepin said of the attackers, adding that the women were likely aware of the men’s plans. “When there’s 500 calls going back and forth, they clearly had an idea of what was going on,” Crepin said.

“We were dealing with people who knew they were being watched and knew how to avoid it. The women were not ignorant.”

Erin Marie Saltman, an expert on the role of women in extremism at the London-based Institute for Strategic Dialogue, said unlike some women who played a supportive role in Islamic extremism, “Boumeddiene was obviously very active, wanting to train, wanting to be a part of the violent nature of the jihadist ideology.”

Samia Maktouf, a Paris lawyer who represents families of several female Muslim extremists in France, said law enforcement should have monitored Boumeddiene earlier on. “They were aware of the dangerousness of this girl. She was in the hands of the police in 2010. Why didn’t they stop her or put her under surveillance? My answer is they were not aware of her Muslim fundamentalism,” Maktouf said.

French authorities are now looking to pass laws that will make it easier to monitor associates of terror suspects. “It was too difficult to monitor the women before. Now, maybe we will be able,” Crepin said. Boumeddiene is believed to have traveled to Turkey and crossed into Syria.

## Why the fight against Islamic State is not the success we’re told it is

By Scott Lucas

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150127-why-the-fight-against-islamic-state-is-not-the-success-we-re-told-it-is>

Jan 27 – **Ministers from twenty-one countries gathered in London on January 22 to discuss the fight against Islamic State (IS). They had their photo opportunity and issued their statements. US secretary of state, John Kerry, told them that almost 6,000 jihadists had been killed, and almost 700 square kilometers of Iraqi territory retaken.**

**But at the end of the day, all of this had precious little to do with the issue of how to confront IS’s political, military, and social expansion.**

**None of the officials from the twenty-one countries would state the obvious: without a determined strategy to challenge IS on the ground as well as from the air in Syria and in Iraq, the best that can be achieved is “containment” of the jihadists.**

And none acknowledged that, without a long-term approach to deal with deep-set political



grievances in both countries, IS will continue to appeal to — and recruit — many more people.

### Credit where it’s due

The U.S.-led aerial intervention in Iraq, which began in August 2014, has certainly checked IS’s advance. It bolstered Kurdish



forces as IS neared the Iraqi Kurdistan capital of Erbil; it has helped those same forces retake some key positions, such as the Mosul Dam, and recapturing some areas of north-west Iraq. However, the Iraqi military's success in the east, west, and south after its near-collapse in summer 2014 owes more to Iranian support and the rise of Shia militias than to any American efforts.

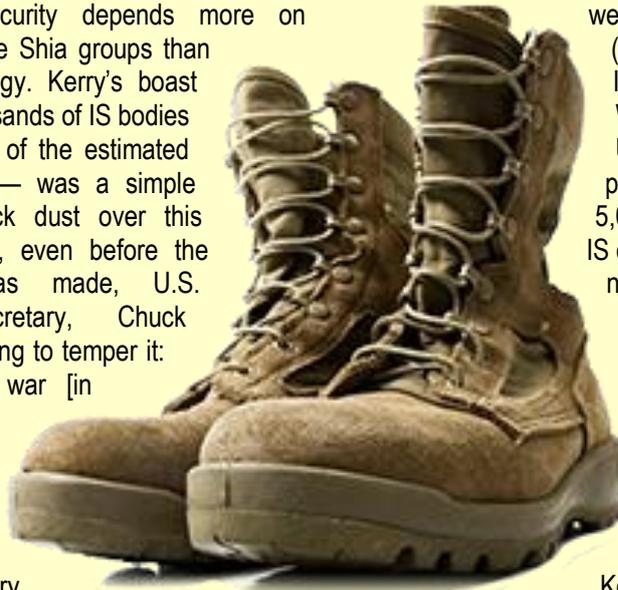
At best, Washington has tacitly accepted that Baghdad's security depends more on Tehran and the Shia groups than on U.S. strategy. Kerry's boast about the thousands of IS bodies — almost half of the estimated jihadist force — was a simple attempt to kick dust over this reality. Indeed, even before the statement was made, U.S. defense secretary, Chuck Hagel, was trying to temper it:

"I was in a war [in Vietnam] where we did body counts and we lost that one."

Nor did Kerry admit that his proclamation had little to do with the prospects of long-term stability in Iraq. There is still no sign of a truly stable government that could deal with rampant corruption and the Sunni minority's suspicions of a Shia-led system. And, if anything, the rise of the anti-IS militias Kerry credits the United States with helping — themselves accused of perpetrating abuses against the population — is likely only to add to the real challenge. Meanwhile, the situation in Syria is even more fraught.

**Grasp the nettle**

Kerry could brag that U.S.-led bombing has helped the Kurdish town of Kobanê, near Syria's border with Turkey, hold out against three months of IS attacks. But at the same time, IS has expanded its hold on territory in much of northern and eastern Syria, taking on both the Assad regime and Syrian opposition forces. It is still secure in its Syrian center, Raqqa, the largest city outside the Damascus regime's control; it has established a local government and economy, and from that base it now controls most of Syria's oil and gas fields.



The blunt reality is that with the exception of Kobanê, there can be no effective campaign against the IS without the support of a local ground force.

But the Obama administration has stopped short of giving that support. Aside from air strikes, it has done little more but drip-feed limited supplies to a handful of "moderate" insurgents, refusing to take essential measures even after the Assad regime's chemical weapons attacks of August 2013 (Obama's initial "red line").

Instead of grasping the nettle, Washington authorised US\$500m to fund a token program to train and equip 5,000 moderate fighters to face IS on the ground. The training will not begin until late March 2015 at the earliest, and the first batch of fighters will not be ready for the battlefield before the end of the year.

Indeed, the biggest recent shift in the U.S. Syria policy has more to do with the Assad regime than IS:

Kerry has now at last reneged on America's long-held position that Assad must eventually give up power to a transitional government.

With that retraction, the dim prospect of any allied ground effort — unless the US decides to ally with the regime's forces — has all but vanished.

**The war at home**

Meanwhile, instead of confronting the difficulties in Iraq and Syria without reservation, the Euro-American allies are fixating on the problem of "jihadists over here." Instead of focusing on dealing with the political, economic, and social situation that has fostered the rise of IS and taking the measures that are really needed to deal with it, Western governments are fixated on their own extremists, who will supposedly return from fighting in the Middle East to wreak havoc in Europe and the United States.

To be sure, the threat of attacks "over here" is serious and is not to be dismissed, as events in France and Belgium have shown. But those attacks cannot be separated from the turmoil in



areas such as (but not limited to) Iraq and Syria — and by extension, the West’s failure to help put a stop to it.

This is not just testament to the dangers of Islamic extremism around the world; it also proves it’s far easier for the West to tell tales of “foreign fighters” and “jihadology” than to work hard on the deeper causes and broader consequences of the Iraqi and Syrian disasters.

*Scott Lucas is Professor of International Politics at University of Birmingham.*

There are **alternatives** that could really challenge the IS: an Iraqi Kurdistan with real international recognition and support, an Iraqi government answering to all communities, a Syrian opposition supported in a political vision that overcomes not only the jihadists but the Assad regime.

But the London summit proved these things are still out of reach — or at least too much for the allies to openly contemplate.

## Following Charlie Hebdo attacks, protests in Islamic countries against terrorists who hijack their faith

Source: <http://my.fakingnews.firstpost.com/2015/01/27/following-charlie-hebdo-attacks-protests-in-islamic-countries-against-terrorists-who-hijack-their-faith/>

Jan 27 – **For the past few days, there had been a series of protests in Islamic nations of the world – from Pakistan to Niger. Protesters took out procession in major cities and town of these countries, with banners denouncing terrorism, especially terrorists who hijack Islam and do atrocities in some parts of the world.**

These protests are to be understood as a backlash to the Charlie Hebdo incident, which

which further claimed few lives. Immediately, after the incident, many people in these Islamic nations were fuming with rage at the terrorists who used their religion to wage wars in foreign soil and bring disrepute to their religion.

There were massive interaction in social media with discussions ranging from solidarity with French to criticising the action of terrorists. It was there, the idea for protests germinated. The protests started in Pakistan, where protesters held a peaceful rally condemning the terrorists who were creating bad name for their faith and urging terrorists to stop using violence. In this rally, an AFP cameraman was shot by camera of a protester. Mass area in Niger was too hot due to the seething anger of protesters against the terrorists and they also protested against Boko Haram, which was doing a huge massacre in parallel. Protesters in Palestine shouted “Death to Terrorism” and burnt flags of ISIS.



happened in Paris on the second week of this month. The attack on the satire magazine claimed a dozen lives and there were also attacks on a supermarket in the same city

Similar protests were held in Iran, Chechenya, Afghanistan and many other Middle East countries.



A protester from Chechenya, said to Faking News, "We assemble here to prove to the world that we are against terrorism. We completely denounce the terror attack that took place in France two weeks back. We curse those guys to hell and we pray for the victims of this tragedy."

Another protester from Pakistan, said, "We not only protest against Charlie Hebdo killers. We also protest against ISIS, Taliban, Al Qaeda, Boko Haram and any other terrorist group that

is hijacking our faith and trying to spread bad name for our religion. We cannot tolerate such attacks which defame Islam. They are not real Muslims. They do not represent our Islam. Period."

Several protesters burnt ISIS, Al Qaeda and Taliban flags and slapped & burnt the effigies of Mullah Omar, Baghdhadi and Abubaker Shekau. They were heard chanting "Death to ISIS, Death to Taliban" and "Baghdadhi, run away. You are not from our religion."

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** (1) There were also similar demonstrations to Australia and the official China's reaction is also of interest; (2) Just loved the text accompanying the photo in this article!

## Danish Islamists refuse to deradicalize, insist Danes change their values

Source: <http://www.terrorismwatch.org/2015/01/danish-islamists-refuse-to-deradicalize.html>

**An Islamist group in Denmark has hit out at a local policy to de-radicalize Muslim youths. It cites "widespread depression, addiction... and alarming rates of suicide" as proof it's really "sad Western culture" that is in dire need of help.**

The scornful statement, which includes allusions to a "sad capitalist existential void," was printed on the website for the group, called Hizb-ut-Tahrir. It's a massive organization with branches in 40 countries and a regional chapter in Copenhagen.

**There is no consensus in Hizb-ut-Tahrir worldwide on support or condemnation of terrorism, as both have taken place. The group is banned in Russia and some of its activities are proscribed in a number of Muslims countries.**

Its statement comes weeks after a Copenhagen municipality decided on a plan to tackle Islamic radicalism at home.

It plans to do this over a period of four years, with the help of external experts working under the guidance of Sweden's top expert on the matter.

The Sunday statements, made by group spokesman and Danish convert Junes Kock, see this as nothing but "manipulation" and "deception," as well as an attempt to polarize the Muslim community and pigeonhole it into moderate and extreme categories. Kock believes that a plan of this sort intends to take things that are the staple of Islamic life – "a beard, prayer, scarf and

general compliance with Islamic behavior" – and label them as radical in an agenda of stigmatization.

**Despite the apparent belief that the West has invented the dangers of Islamism to split Muslims, Hizb ut-Tahrir has shown no willingness to cooperate with the more moderate members of the Muslim faith.** On Sunday it rejected any Danish initiative to work together with other Muslims at preventing youths from joining up with terrorist movements.

Kock goes on to say that "It is clearly Danish people who need help finding the correct meaning of life... and here we can assist."

As for the plans, "they are doomed to fail," according to the author of the statement.

The group is no small adversary: it has been active since 1953 in calls to establish a global Islamic Caliphate, although it claims not to condone violence, the way the Islamic State and other extremist groups do.

However, despite its anti-violent stance, a 2002 controversy over pamphlets containing anti-Semitic messages could take on a new salience, especially now that the issue is back on the table and bigger than it has been in 70 years.

"The Jews are a people of slander... a treacherous people... they fabricate lies and twist words from their right context," the text read. But it also went on to justify suicide bombings in Israel, calling the



bombers martyrs and the acts as a "legitimate" response.

The group also recently staged a demonstration outside the national mosque in Bangladesh calling for the re-establishment of a unified Muslims Army. Members were seen celebrating the victories of the Islamic State.

In contrast, the group has in the past condemned both the September 11 attacks and the July 2005 London bombings on the grounds that the killing of innocents isn't the way to go about achieving one's aims.

## Back In 2000, CIA Made These Predictions For 2015

Source: <http://www.businessinsider.com/cia-predictions-for-2015-from-2000-2015-1>

Back in 2000, the CIA published a 70-page report on what the world would be like in 2015. Here were some of those predictions, according to a December 2000 story from The Telegraph.

**"International affairs are increasingly determined by large and powerful organizations rather than governments."**

**Verdict: Probably true.** though it is sometimes hard to distinguish between non-state actors and state actors. Just look at the Islamic State or the possibly-not-North Korean hackers who took down Sony.

**"Between now and 2015 terrorist tactics will become increasingly sophisticated and designed to achieve mass casualties."**

**Verdict: Definitely true.** Sadly, this prediction became true within months.

**"Iraq and Iran [will] develop long range missiles in the near future. Iran ... could be testing such weapons by as early as the coming year, and cruise missiles by 2004."**

**Verdict: Both true and false.** Iran is definitely working on an ICBM, but it won't test it till next year.

**"The world population will grow by more than one billion, to 7.2 billion."**

**Verdict: True.**

**"Energy resources will be sufficient to meet demand."**

**Verdict: Nailed it.** Companies are actually canceling plans to dig up more natural gas because oil is abundant right now.

**"China's economy will grow to overtake Europe as the world's second largest but still behind the United States."**

**Verdict: True-ish.** By some measurements, China's economy is now larger than the US economy.

**"Europe will not achieve fully the dreams of parity with the US as a shaper of the global economic system."**

**Verdict: Correct.** The report was way too bullish on the European economy, which is "going nowhere" these days.

**"Aids, famine, and continuing economic and political turmoil means that populations in many [African] countries will actually fall."**

**Verdict: False.** Africa's population rose from 800 million in 2000 to 1.1 billion in 2014.



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## ISIS Update – First Half of January 2015

Source: <http://i-hls.com/2015/01/isis-update-first-half-january-2015/>



### Main developments in Syria and Lebanon

- Fighting between the forces of the Syrian regime and ISIS operatives in the area of the Deir al-Zor airfield continues. Syrian security forces and members of the Al-Shueitat tribe, who live in East Syria, reportedly joined forces in fighting off ISIS and managed to kill dozens of ISIS operatives. At the same time, the Syrian Air Force attacked ISIS positions and caused losses (Al-Watan, January 7, 2015).
- On the other hand, it was reported that ISIS had permitted some members of the Al-Shueitat tribe, who cooperate with the Syrian regime, to return to their homes. This was after they promised to refrain from fighting against ISIS and to recognize the authority of the Islamic Caliphate. As part of this promise, ISIS ordered them to hand over their weapons (YouTube, January 11, 2015).

### Aleppo

- Battles took place in the towns of Nabal and Al-Zahra in the province of Aleppo. Rebel forces took control of them. Several Al-Nusra Front commanders were killed in the battles.
- On January 10, 2015, a Twitter account affiliated with Al-Qaeda claimed that dozens of operatives from the Al-Nusra Front and Ahrar al-Sham in the Aleppo area had pledged allegiance to ISIS. A video posted on YouTube showed a local commander (Emir) codenamed Ibn Al-Khattab, who announced that he had left the Al-Nusra Front because the organization does not conduct its daily life in accordance with Islamic law. In the video, he also calls on his former friends in the Al-Nusra Front to join ISIS (Abu Abdullah al-Jazrawi's Twitter account; YouTube, January 10, 2015). ISIS customarily exploits the defection of local commanders from other rebel groups into its ranks for propaganda purposes, even when it is of no great significance.

### Damascus

- According to media reports, ISIS has established its control in the Al-Hajr al-Aswad neighborhood (south of Damascus) and has expanded its control eastward. It was reported that ISIS appointed an operative known as Abu al-Huda al-Suri as the "Emir" of the Damascus and Al-Qalamoun area (Al-Nashra, January 9, 2015).

### Idlib (northwest Syria)

- On January 10, 2015, a website affiliated with the Al-Nusra Front posted photos of its camp in the province of Idlib, where the organization has recently made headway. The photos show dozens of the organization's operatives and give the clear impression that they are well equipped and are operating in an organized manner (Sada al-Sham al-Islami, January 2015).



### Hama

- On January 9, 2015, a website affiliated with the Islamic State reported that the Hama area was declared a new province of the Islamic State. According to the announcement, the names of the cities included in the province will be published at a later date (Al-Platform Media, January 9, 2015). Despite the announcement, the province of Hama is not under the control of the Islamic State, but the pressure on it by jihadi organizations is expected to increase after their recent achievements in the province of Idlib.

### Double suicide bombing attack in Tripoli, Lebanon

- On the evening of January 10, 2015, a double suicide bombing attack was carried out at a café in Jabal Mohsen, an Alawi neighborhood in Tripoli, northern Lebanon. As a result of the attack, nine people were killed and 30 injured. First, a grenade was thrown at the café, and then a suicide bomber went inside and blew himself up. A second suicide bomber blew himself up outside the café.
- The Al-Nusra Front, which carried out attacks in Lebanon in the past, claimed responsibility for the attack. According to the organization, it carried out the attack because the café is affiliated with the Alawi Assad regime. The two suicide bombers were identified by the Al-Nusra Front as Abu Hussein al-Tarabulsi and Abu Abd al-Rahman al-Tarabulsi. They were apparently Lebanese jihadi operatives from the city of Tripoli (Daily Star, January 10, 2015).

### Main developments in Iraq

#### *The Mosul region*

- On January 9-10, 2015, ISIS carried out a surprise attack in the area of Gwer, near Mosul, which is controlled by the Kurds. During the attack, some 160 ISIS operatives crossed the Tigris River in boats. According to the reports, ISIS managed to take control of the region within an hour. Kurdish forces subsequently carried out a counterattack and regained control of the area of Gwer. According to Kurdish sources, 60 ISIS operatives were killed in the fighting.
- On January 10, 2015, ISIS operatives attacked several villages in the area south of Mosul. It was reported that 30 ISIS operatives were killed in the clashes. The next day, Kurdish forces regained control of the villages.

#### *The Kirkuk region*

- On January 11, 2015, ISIS operatives attacked Kurdish forces southwest of Kirkuk. After severe clashes, the attack was repulsed. ISIS apparently intends to take over the road leading from (Kurdish-controlled) Kirkuk to Baghdad, possibly with a view to cutting off Kirkuk from the capital.

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## This is Sajida Al-Rishawi, The Jordanian Prisoner ISIS Wants Released

Source: <http://m.huffpost.com/in/entry/6565686?ir=India>



Jan 29 – In a new video released on Tuesday, the Islamic State group threatened to execute two hostages within 24 hours unless Jordan releases a female failed suicide bomber who's been on death row in the country since 2006.

Tuesday's video appeared to show Japanese reporter Kenji Goto, who has been held by the Islamic State group since the fall. The images were accompanied by audio in which a man who sounded like Goto said he had 24 hours to live unless Jordan released Sajida al-Rishawi. Goto added that the life of Muath al-Kasaesbeh, a Jordanian pilot who was captured by the extremists after his plane crashed



in Syria in December, was also in imminent danger.

**Al-Rishawi received the death penalty in Jordan in 2006 for her role in al Qaeda attacks on three luxury hotels in the Jordanian capital of Amman in November 2005.** The bombings left more than 60 people dead and were some of the deadliest in Jordan's history.



Al-Rishawi, originally from the Iraqi city of Ramadi, traveled to Jordan with her husband Ali Hussein al-Shumari in the fall of 2005. On Nov. 9, the couple walked into the ballroom of the Radisson SAS hotel, where a wedding was taking place, each wearing a suicide vest. Al-Shumari blew himself up in one corner of the room. Al-Rishawi's vest didn't explode.

Al-Rishawi was able to flee the hotel in the chaos that ensued after the attack, but was later captured in the safe house she and her husband had rented with two other terrorists. She recounted the details of the attack in a three-minute televised confession aired on Jordanian state television.

Al-Rishawi was sentenced to death for her role in the bombings in 2006, yet Jordan issued a moratorium on the death penalty that same year. That moratorium has recently been lifted. Jordanian investigators told the New York Times in 2005 that al-Rishawi said the deaths

of three of her brothers in American operations in Iraq had motivated her to take part in the attack. One of the brothers was reportedly a senior aide to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the founder of al Qaeda in Iraq, predecessor of the Islamic State group. Al-Zarqawi claimed responsibility for the Amman attacks.

At her trial in 2006, however, al-Rishawi changed her version of events and claimed she was forced to take part in the assault and never planned to detonate her bomb.

The Associated Press noted that al-Rishawi's release would be a major victory for the Islamic State militants on two fronts:

Securing the release of al-Rishawi would be a major propaganda coup for the Islamic State, following months of battlefield setbacks -- most recently in the northern Syrian town of Kobani where Kurdish fighters on Monday managed to drive out the extremists after months-long fighting and hundreds of U.S.-led coalition airstrikes.

It would also allow the group to reaffirm its links to Al Qaeda in Iraq, which battled U.S. troops and claimed the Jordan attack. The Islamic State group had a brutal falling out with Al Qaeda's central leadership, but still reveres the global terror network's onetime Iraqi affiliate and its leader, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who was killed by a U.S. airstrike in 2006.

On Wednesday, Amman appeared willing to consider al-Rishawi's release and a member of Jordan's parliament said the government was engaged in indirect talks with the militants. Jordan's willingness to negotiate with the Islamic State is against the policy of the United States. Both countries are part of the international coalition to fight the Islamic State group.

## Al Jazeera English bans words: 'Terrorist,' 'Islamist,' 'jihad' off-limits to news employees

Source: <http://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2015/jan/28/al-jazeera-english-bans-words-terrorist-islamist-j/>

**Al Jazeera English executive Carlos van Meek banned his news employees from using words like "terrorist," "Islamist" and "jihad," explaining that it's important to realize that some might take offense — that one person's idea of terrorism is simply another person's fight for freedom.**

"All: We manage our words carefully around here," he wrote to staff at the news channel's New York and Washington, D.C., offices, the National Review reported. "So I'd like to bring to your attention some key words that have a tendency of tripping us up."

Some of the banned words: "Terrorist," "Islamist" and "jihad," the email said.





Why?

“One person’s terrorist is another person’s freedom fight,” Mr. van Meek wrote, National Review reported.

And as for the word “extremist,” the executive warned that news staff should “avoid characterizing people.” Rather, he said, “often their actions do the word for the viewer,” the email said, National Review reported.

He went on: “Do not use Islamist” because it’s “a simplistic label.” And don’t use “jihad,” he said, because “strictly speaking, jihad means an inner spiritual struggle, not a holy war. It is not by tradition a negative term. It also means the struggle to defend Islam against things challenging it.”

Mr. van Meek suggested employees instead use words like “fighters and “militants,” but only in certain conditions. He sent out the email shortly after Islamic terrorists attacked a hotel in Libya’s capital city, the news outlet said.

“For example,” he said, National Review reported, “we can use the term [militant] to describe Norwegian mass-killer Andres Behring Breivik or Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh.”

Mr. van Meek was introduced at a 2013 Northwestern University seminar in Qatar as the “head of Al Jazeera English,” in charge of “establishing Al Jazeera in America,” National Review reported.

**EDITOR’S COMMENT:** Sorry but I hate it when repeating myself on mentality issues. If by the end of Feb 2015 I find the "right" world I will introduce it herein!!!

**Sharia France: Artwork violating Islamic blasphemy law removed from Paris exhibition after Muslim threats**

Source: <http://www.jihadwatch.org/2015/01/sharia-france-artwork-violating-islamic-blasphemy-law-removed-from-paris-exhibition-after-muslim-threats>

Jan 28 – The more the West kowtows to jihadist intimidation and thuggery, the more jihadist intimidation and thuggery it will get. The Charlie Hebdo jihad massacre is proving to have been a great victory for the jihadists: now they are getting non-Muslims in France and elsewhere to curtail their behavior to conform to Sharia blasphemy laws.

“Blasphemous’ artwork [below] removed from Paris exhibition,” by David Chazan, the Telegraph, January 28, 2015 (thanks to Banafsseh):

An artwork depicting high-heeled shoes on

exhibition after a Muslim group warned of possible violence in the wake of the Paris



attacks.

The French-Algerian artist, Zoulikha Bouabdellah, withdrew the work from an exhibition in a northern Paris suburb with a large Muslim population after an Islamic group told local authorities it could provoke “uncontrollable, irresponsible incidents”.

It is considered disrespectful to step on Muslim prayer maps with shoes.

Ms Bouabdellah has replaced the artwork, “Silence”, previously exhibited in Paris, New York, Berlin and Madrid, with a video



Islamic prayer mats has been removed from an

installation showing belly-dancing



to the French national anthem, with swirling red, white and blue shawls symbolising the national flag....

Ms Bouabdellah, 37, said on Wednesday that the “lack of understanding” of her work was probably related to “heightened emotions” after the attacks.

“I’m left wondering at the reasons that push a certain fringe among French Muslims to see this work as blasphemous,” she said. “I’m from a Muslim background and my intention was not to shock or provoke, but to offer a vision as a starting point for a dialogue.”...

## Belgium confronting home-grown jihadist threat

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150129-belgium-confronting-homegrown-jihadist-threat>

Jan 29 – **Belgium is Europe’s biggest per capita contributor of fighters to Syria and law enforcement officials fear that at least seventy of 350 Belgian fighters have returned home equipped with skills they learned on the battle field.** The Belgian government had brought the concern to

national attention in an October document warning about the “danger of violent jihadism that threatens to spread in our society.” Belgian officials have not found a link between the Paris attacks earlier this month and planned attacks in Belgium in the following days – attacks thwarted by swift police preemptive action — but common

elements include: a clustering of radicals in a small area, the connection between petty criminality and jihadist violence, and the role of prison as an incubator for extremism.

Shortly after this month’s Paris attacks, Belgian authorities raided several extremist hideaways, claiming they stopped what was an imminent terrorist attack on targets including a local police station. They named Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the Belgian-born son of an immigrant shopkeeper from Morocco, as a possible leader or “presumed mastermind” of one of the planned attacks. Abaaoud, who went to Syria a year ago, also recruited his younger, now 14-year old, brother to join him to wage jihad and fight alongside other fighters. “Naturally, this was a big shock,” Yasmina, their older sibling, told the *New York Times*.

Like many European Muslims who have traveled to Syria, Abaaoud is believed to have returned to Europe to help plan attacks on local targets. Belgium is Europe’s biggest per capita contributor of fighters to Syria and law enforcement officials fear that at least seventy of 350 Belgian fighters have returned home

equipped with skills they learned on the battle field. The Belgian government had brought the concern to national attention in an October document warning about the “danger of violent jihadism that threatens to spread in our society.” Pieter Van Ostaeen, a Belgian researcher who has been monitoring the movement of Syria-bound jihadists from Belgium, believe the number of Belgian fighters in Syria is closer to 450,

less than half the number from France but still a large figure for a country of only eleven million people.

Belgian officials have not found a link between the Paris attacks and the planned attacks in Belgium, but common elements include: a clustering of radicals in a small area, the connection between petty criminality and jihadist violence, and the role of prison as an incubator for extremism.

After the Belgian police raided a residence in the city of Verviers, near the German border, on 15 January, they focused their counterterrorism efforts on the Molenbeek district of Brussels, Belgium’s second poorest area with a 40 percent youth unemployment rate and an immigrant community with



twenty-two mosques known to local officials — compared to roughly five churches— and others that operate underground. “The network that was dismantled in Verviers is a network that had its origins in Molenbeek,” said Françoise Schepmans, the mayor of Molenbeek. “That is evident. They just rented a hideaway at Verviers.”

Ostaeyen believes Molenbeek has been a breeding ground for Islamic extremism partly due to the role of “Sharia4Belgium,” a local campaign set up in 2010 to promote Islamic law, but which later focused on recruiting fighters for Syria. The group’s leader, 32-year old Fouad Belkacem, has a long arrest record for petty crimes including theft and assault, but went on trial last September for belonging to a terrorist group and brainwashing young people. A verdict in his case was due in January but has now been postponed. The *Times* points out that as was the case with Belkacem and Amedy Coulibaly, who attacked the kosher supermarket in Paris earlier this month, Abaaoud, accused of being the leader of the foiled Belgian plot, had been arrested and spent time in prison for petty crimes, before he adopted a jihadist view. “He was radicalized in

prison at Saint Gilles,” Mustafa Er, an aide to the Schepmans, said, referring to a jail in southern Brussels.

Abaaoud’s older sister, Yasmina, assured that her brothers had no interest in religion before departing to Syria. “They did not even go to the mosque,” she said.

The whereabouts of Abaaoud and his younger brother are unknown, but their family noted that they received calls last fall from Syria saying Abaaoud had become a “martyr” who died in battle. Investigators believe the “martyr” call was to confuse Western intelligence agencies to stop looking for Abaaoud. At the time of his reported death, Abaaoud had appeared in a video message driving a pickup truck carrying corpses across a field, while urging fellow Muslims to join him in Syria. “Are you satisfied with the life you lead, a humiliating life, whether you are in Europe, in Africa, in Arab countries or in America? Are you satisfied with this life, with this life of humiliation?” he asked. Only jihad could restore your pride, he added. “You will find this only in your religion, only in jihad,” he said. “Is there anything better than jihad or a martyr?”

## French prisons, long hotbeds of radical Islam, get new scrutiny after Paris attacks

By Michael Birnbaum

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/paris-killers-radicalized-in-prison-now-leaders-want-to-fix-that-problem/2015/01/28/52271e28-a307-11e4-91fc-7dff95a14458\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/europe/paris-killers-radicalized-in-prison-now-leaders-want-to-fix-that-problem/2015/01/28/52271e28-a307-11e4-91fc-7dff95a14458_story.html)

The man was sent to France’s largest prison for armed robbery. He emerged a toughened radical who would go on to take part in the bloodiest terrorist attacks on French soil in decades.

France’s prisons have a reputation as factories for radical Islamists, taking in ordinary criminals and turning them out as far more dangerous people. Here at the Fleury-Merogis prison — where Amedy Coulibaly did time alongside another of the attackers in the deadly assaults this month in and around Paris — authorities are struggling to quell a problem that they say was long threatening to explode.

Former inmates, imams and guards all describe a chaotic scene inside these concrete walls, 15 miles from the elegant boulevards surrounding the Eiffel Tower. Militancy lurks in the shadows, and the best-behaved men are sometimes the most dangerous. French Prime

Minister Manuel Valls promised last week to flood his nation’s prisons with 60 more Muslim chaplains, doubling their budget to try to combat radicalization. Authorities this week raided 80 prison cells of suspected radicals, saying they found cellphones, USB drives and other contraband. Hundreds of inmates in French prisons are a potential threat, authorities say.

But critics say that these efforts are minuscule compared with the scope of the problem, with prisons so poorly controlled that a leaked French government report once described Osama bin Laden posters hanging on inmates’ walls. The challenge may be compounded by the dozens of people sent to jail after the recent attacks, some for more than a year, under fast-track proceedings in which they were



charged with verbal support for terrorism. “Prison destroys men,” said Mohamed Boina M’Koubou, an imam who works in the Fleury-Merogis prison (photo below). “There are

country’s 68,000 inmates even though they are only 5 to 10 percent of the general population. But there are only about 170 imams currently ministering inside prisons.



people who are easy targets to spot and make into killers.”

Coulibaly had told police that he met “terrorists” during his prison stints, even as he denied that he was one himself.

“If you want me to name all the terrorists I know, it will take you a while. I know them all — the Chechens, the Afghans,” Coulibaly told police in 2010, according to court documents from a trial that year in which he was convicted of trying to help a man who had plotted the 1995 bombings on the Paris subway escape from jail. “I knew them back in prison, but that doesn’t mean I still see them now.”

The poorly staffed prisons were an ideal place to spread violent ideology — in many ways, even better than outside the prison gates. Most prisoners spend up to nine hours a day mingling relatively unsupervised, guards say, first at work and then in the prison yard. French intelligence services pride themselves for their penetration of militant networks in their country — but prisons fall under a different umbrella, experts say, in which many radicals go unchecked, and even unnoticed, by guards.

Other nations, including the United States and Britain, have also struggled with radicalization in prisons. But the issue has proved especially volatile in France, where experts estimate that Muslims make up more than half of the

“The number of people who work on intelligence within prisons is peanuts,” said Farhad Khosrokhavar, a sociologist at Paris’s School for Advanced Studies in the Social Sciences who has studied prison radicalization. And the most dangerous inmates are the ones who know how to blend in, he said.

“Most of the people who get radicalized in prison know very well they should not let their beards grow, should not go to collective Friday prayer when it exists,” Khosrokhavar said. The ones who do, potentially drawing guards’ attention, are usually the ones who are harmless, he said.

Prison guards, who are each typically responsible for 100 inmates, say they are able to do little about the problem.

“They adapt faster than we do,” said David Dulondel, who works as a guard at the Fleury-Merogis prison and is the head of a union there.

“We don’t have anyone trained for anti-radicalization,” he said. “As it is today, we can’t say whether someone is in the process of radicalizing or not.”

Valls has proposed isolating the most dangerous inmates together rather than allowing them to mingle with the general prison population. Critics question



whether it is possible to identify the right inmates, and they ask whether grouping them would simply create even stronger radicalizing

The other man Coulibaly met in prison was Chérif Kouachi, who with his brother Said killed 12 people this month in the attack at the Paris



cells within the prisons.

For Coulibaly, the Fleury-Merogis prison was omnipresent when he was growing up right next door in the Paris suburb of Grigny, in a housing project so violence-plagued that the post office there closed last year because it had been robbed too many times. Residents joke grimly that the prison is just another area neighborhood, since people flow in and out of it so regularly.

It was within Fleury-Merogis's barbed-wire perimeter in 2005 that Coulibaly met two men who would change his life. One was Djamel Beghal, a French Algerian inmate who had been convicted of plotting to blow up the U.S. Embassy in Paris in 2001 and was a handsome, articulate and seductive advocate of violence in the name of religion.

Beghal "was right above me" in the prison, Coulibaly told police — an ideal spot to pass messages to each other with the soda bottles tied to torn sheets that prisoners would hang out of the windows. The communication strategy worked even though Beghal, who was seen as an unusually dangerous radicalizer, was in solitary confinement. Coulibaly captured the method in video footage of prison life that he shot and then smuggled out to a French television network.

Beghal did not preach in prison, Coulibaly said, but he did answer inmates' questions about Islam.

offices of the satirical newsweekly Charlie Hebdo. At the time, Kouachi was serving time for a bungled attempt to go to Iraq to fight. His prison stint hardened him even further. Lawyers involved in the case watched the transformation from amateur jihadist to a glowering man who once resisted three days of police efforts to question him.

"A lot of my clients were radicalized in prison," said Dominique Many, a defense lawyer who was involved in the 2005 case in which Kouachi and others were convicted of attempting to go to Iraq to wage jihad.

"They are very well organized," Many said. "They know how to protect the weak to draw them into the system. They say you're their family, and then you're trapped."

The radicalization that happens inside prison remains an issue long after inmates are freed.

"When you're in jail for 10 years and in contact with such people, it's very difficult to come out and turn things around," said Myriam Benraad of the Paris university Sciences Po, an expert on militant movements who has studied Kouachi's gang.

The threat has long been appreciated by the French government — radicalized prisoners, once released, are "time bombs," according to a leaked 2005 government report about the problem.



But for M'Koubou, the prison imam, some stubborn problems are nearly hopeless to eradicate. That's why on a recent trip away from prison and into Paris's bookish Left Bank,

he bought a weighty tome that he said he intended to read right away: "Al-Qaeda in France."

*Michael Birnbaum is The Post's Moscow bureau chief. He previously served as the Berlin correspondent and an education reporter.*

## France Worries 'Tangible' Terror Threat At Euro 2016

Source: <http://au.ibtimes.com/france-worries-tangible-terror-threat-euro-2016-1416153>

Jan 30 – **France is worried the terror attack it experienced in the first week of January 2015 could be replicated right during the Euro 2016 football championships tournament.** Jacques Lambert, the organising committee president for Euro 2016, said when he wrote the host bid in 2009, part of the 12 risks identified that could mar the event was a terrorist threat.

"The terrorist risk was present from the beginning," Lambert told AFP. And that had become "tangible" following the Charlie Hebdo shootings since it was carried through, he added. The Islamist attacks in January in Paris killed 17 people. It has prompted France to allot \$490 million to implement new counter-terrorism measures over the next three years. These will include recruitment of hundreds of new police intelligence agents.

The global community blasted French authorities after it was discovered that the Islamist extremists who carried out the attacks had been known to intelligence agencies for years, the Guardian reported earlier in January. In the next three years, France will create 2,680 new security-related jobs to fight extremism, where 1,100 will be in the police intelligence posts.

Lambert believed the attacks won't alter much of the security preparations of the event. "But you

see that for everyone, public opinion, media, teams, it adds a special intensity," he explained. **Euro 2016 features 24 teams for the first time. It has been scheduled between June 10 and July 10 in cities throughout France.**

Henry Wilkinson, head of intelligence and analysis at the global risk management consultancy Risk Advisory Group, quoted by Newsweek, said security measures for the event will already be planned "as high as it is now or higher" because such gathering will surely be attractive to terrorist organisations who are obviously looking for "opportunities to publicise their cause and create a higher impact." However, it is also probable the terrorists target "unsecured areas." These could be at bars, pubs as well as big-screens in public places.

The UEFA European Championship is held every four years. Attracting huge crowds at matches and on TV, it consists of a qualifying competition, playoffs and a final knockout tournament. France defeated Italy and Turkey to win the right to host Euro 2016. It last hosted the event in 1984.



### Venues

- Paris - Parc des Princes - 45,000 (before renovation)
- Saint Denis (Paris outskirts) - Stade de France - 81,000
- Lille - Grand Stade Lille Métropole - 50,000 (opened Aug 2012)
- Marseille - Stade Velodrome - 65,000 after renovations
- Lyon - Stade des Lumieres - 58,000 (under construction)
- Saint Etienne - 41,500 (before renovation)
- Bordeaux - 42,000 (before renovation)
- Nice - 35,000 (before renovation)
- Toulouse - 33,000 (before renovation)
- Lens - 39,000 (before renovation)



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## One of Taliban in Bergdahl Swap Likely Back in Terrorism

Source: <http://www.newsmax.com/Newsfront/Taliban-Bowe-Bergdahl-prisoner-exchange-terrorism/2015/01/29/id/621546/>

**One of the five Taliban leaders traded for the release of U.S. Army Sgt. Bowe Bergdahl may have returned to terrorism,** CNN reports.

The Pentagon would not confirm which of the five is believed to have been in communication with Islamic militants, CNN's Barbara Starr reported Thursday on CNN's "The Lead with



Jake Tapper."

U.S. intelligence is monitoring the communications of the men, who were released to Qatar last summer in exchange for Bergdahl, who had been held by the Taliban for five years. Those communications reportedly showed the suspect to have reached out to militants.

The information has sparked debate in the intelligence community, Starr said, with some officials saying the man poses no direct threat, though the communications of all five now are being monitored more closely.

But other officials say they might change the classification from "suspected" to "confirmed." Starr writes on CNN.com that intelligence laws define "confirmed" as a "preponderance of information which identifies a specific former GITMO detainee as directly involved in terrorist or insurgent activities," while the definition of "suspected" is "plausible but unverified or single-source reporting indicating a specific

former GITMO detainee is directly involved in terrorist or insurgent activities."

The five were released from the U.S. military facility at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, popularly referred to as "Gitmo."

**The case raises problems for the Obama administration, which is continuing to release Guantanamo detainees in what observers say is**



**an effort to eventually close the detention facility.**

The case also has been trouble for the White House because Bergdahl was captured after allegedly voluntarily walking off base alone. Some of his own platoon-mates have said he deserted his post, and retired Lt. Col. Tony Schaffer has been telling the press this week that a

completed but unreleased report on the case will charge Bergdahl with desertion.

The Pentagon denies that, saying no final decision has been made.

Gen. Anthony Zinni, former commander in chief of U.S. Central Command, told CNN the release is likely to strain U.S. relations with Qatar, which has received several released detainees and promised to monitor them.

**"If they have left and have gone back to Afghanistan, I think there's going to be some serious repercussions, especially with our relationships with the Qataris,"** Zinni said.

## Super Bowl may have something to teach Boston about security

Source: <http://www.bostonglobe.com/metro/2015/01/29/super-bowl-security-provides-playbook-boston-mulls-potential-olympics-venues/qekVXWZUENViyIRzMC6XNK/story.html>

Before they set out for the football Mecca erected downtown here, fans flying into Sky Harbor Airport this week will file past agents armed with assault rifles.

The mood may be festive in Phoenix, but the backdrop is sometimes severe. Police patrol the light rail that runs along North Central Avenue, and their parked motorcycles line the streets around the 12-block area closed off for fans to frolic.

For federal, state, and local law enforcement, Sunday's Super Bowl will be the culmination of a season that began long before Tom Brady turned up at training camp — and even before some of today's most obvious threats were on anyone's radar.

And for those flying in from Boston, where the first flights since the storm took off Wednesday afternoon, such sights may soon become familiar:





Planning is already underway for security at an Olympic Games that may not materialize. No specific, credible threats have been made against this year's Super Bowl, said US



Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson, who was in Phoenix on Wednesday to tour University of Phoenix Stadium in nearby Glendale.

Police departments in Phoenix and Glendale have eliminated leave time for their employees in the days leading up to the game. The NFL has hired thousands of private security workers. A federal homeland security agent, Matt Allen, was assigned to oversee the event. Dozens of agencies spent more than a year planning and coordinating.

"The majority of people view the Super Bowl as an exciting culmination of the football season," said Glendale Police Chief Debora Black at a news conference Wednesday. "Others see these events as a high-profile target on a world stage."

In the wake of the Boston Marathon bombing nearly two years ago, such stages are treated with special care. The Marathon bombing forced the NFL to change its security policy for games, including the Super Bowl. Fans must bring their belongings into the game in small, clear plastic bags. Only small clutches — not purses or shoulder bags or fanny packs — are allowed in. Everything gets scanned.

In Boston, where Olympic ambitions have been tempered by trepidation about what hosting the games might entail, Phoenix's experience could be instructive. Securing a city known for its sprawl makes for a particularly useful comparison to an Olympic Games, where various venues host different sports daily.

"It's like a Super Bowl every single day — multiple Super Bowls every day," said Juliette Kayyem, a former candidate for governor,

founder of a private security firm, and member of the Boston 2024 executive committee.

From a security standpoint, a Super Bowl would most closely resemble an Olympic opening or closing ceremony, Kayyem said.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection Black Hawk helicopter flew above University of Phoenix Stadium, site of Super Bowl XLIX, on Monday.

But comparisons are tricky, Kayyem said, because making Boston's would-be Olympics walkable for fans is so fundamental to the city's bid. In Phoenix, walkability is not just a foreign notion but an

interstellar one: In the heat of summer, you might as well be walking on the sun.

From a security standpoint, a better comparison to a Boston Olympics might be a presidential inauguration, she said.

What the events have in common, she said, is the need to coordinate communications among many agencies that each have their own leadership and routine. Such events receive federal designation as "national special security events," which come with federal oversight and resources.

Further complicating matters is the need to prepare for threats that are not yet obvious.

When planning for the London Olympics began, cyber attacks were little understood and barely considered.

When planning for this year's Super Bowl began more than a year ago, the threat of the Islamic State was not well known.

Threats "change from year to year, from month to month, from week to week," acknowledged Johnson. "The key is vigilance."

Johnson pointed to a renewed push to encourage the public to report suspicious activities through a "see something, say something" campaign.

Before Wednesday's news conference, new television ads repeated earnest requests to tip off police if something seems amiss.

Black said dozens of people lodged reports during last week's Pro Bowl, an NFL all star game that was until recently held exclusively in Hawaii.

But the definition of "suspicious" changes somewhat when more



than 100,000 people descend on your town to party. And the Olympics are bigger still.

"The challenge for an Olympics is that it's a much bigger conversation," Kayyem said.

## Poll: 84% Of Americans Think Islamic Terrorists Could Launch Attack On U.S. Soil Soon

Source:<http://www.christiantimes.com/article/poll.84.of.americans.think.islamic.terrorists.may.launch.attack.on.u.s.soil.soon/50718.htm>

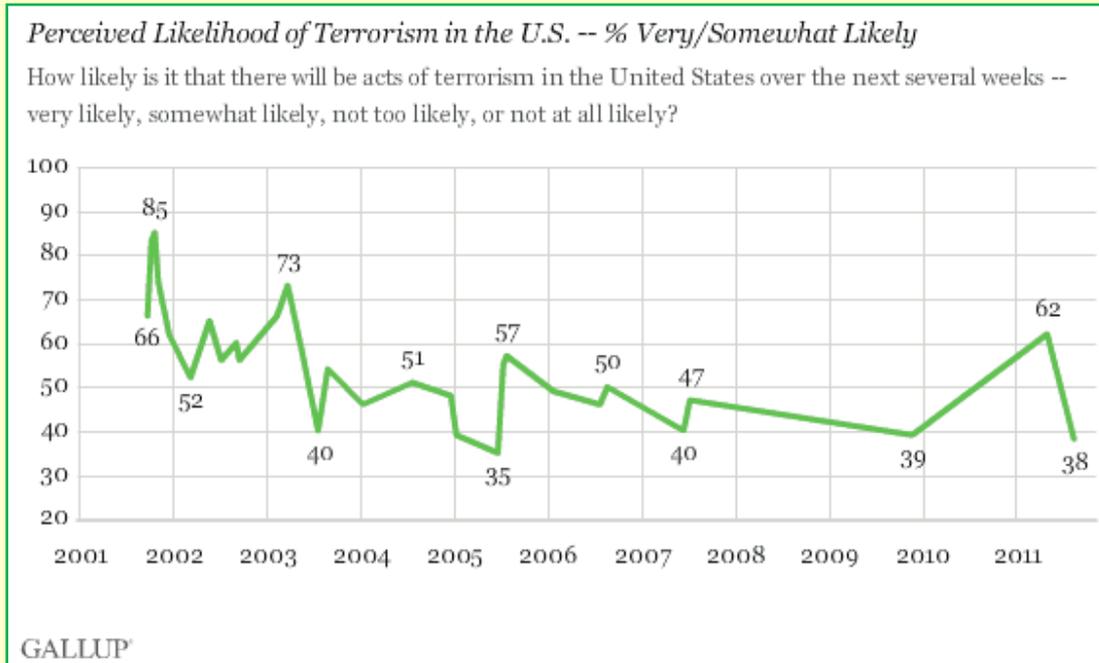
**A vast majority of American voters think that Islamic terrorists will launch an attack on U.S. soil in the near future while nearly half say President Barack Obama is underemphasizing the threat from the terrorists, a Fox News poll reported.**

According to the survey, 84 percent think it is "somewhat likely" that Islamic terrorists will try to launch an attack on U.S. soil soon. The number includes 50 percent who say "very" likely.

on the other hand, say the country is at war (68-29 percent).

On the President's treatment of the terror threat, nearly half (47 percent) say he "underemphasizes" such threat. Another 43 percent say his approach is "about right" while only 6 percent say he "overemphasizes" it.

Terrorism placed second after the economy as the most important issue for Congress and the President to work on right now, according to the survey. While the economy is ranked by 32



The survey used 1,009 randomly chosen registered voters nationwide as respondents. They were interviewed via landline and cell phone from Jan. 25-27,

Voters aged 45 and over (59 percent) think that an attack is "very" likely to happen than younger voters (39 percent).

Also, 56 percent think the United States is at war with radical Islam, compared to 37 percent who think otherwise.

For Democrats, 49 percent of them say the country is at war with radical Islam, while 47 percent say it is not. Majority of Republicans,

percent as the top issue, terrorism comes in at 14 percent. It is followed by health care at 11 percent and federal deficit and immigration at 10 percent each.

Only 15 percent of voters think the country is safer since Obama became head of the state, far from the 34 percent who feel the country is less safe. Half think the security situation has not changed under Obama.

Those who say the country is at war with radical Islam are 15 points more likely to say the country is less safe than those



who say the U.S. is not at war with radical Islam, according to the survey.

A little over half of the voters say the greatest threat to future generations is global terrorism, compared to Obama's assertion in his State of the Union speech that climate change poses the greatest threat. Meanwhile, 16 percent say Iran having a nuclear weapon poses the greatest threat.

Even as 2,700 terrorists or militants have been killed by the 400 drone strikes in Yemen and Pakistan during Obama's term, 60 percent of voters think it is better to capture, interrogate and try terrorist suspects in a military court. Only 24 percent agree with the administration's usage of drones.

More than half of voters (54 percent) say the administration's policies toward hot spots in the Middle East have mostly failed.

More than six in 10 voters say Obama should have joined the Paris march, including 52 percent of Democrats.

Fourteen percent of respondents say Obama does not use terms like radical Islam or Islamic terrorism because he doesn't think the terrorist threat is directly connected to Islam. However, 70 percent think there is another reason. The poll did not ask what the other reasons might be.

As Obama continues to move forward with plans to close the Guantanamo Bay detention center, 58 percent disagree with his plans while only 32 percent approve of his decision. Most Republicans (81 percent) and over half of independents (55 percent) say it is wrong to close Gitmo. Almost half of Democrats (49 percent) say it is the right thing to do, while 38 percent disagree.

The survey has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus three percentage points and was held under the joint direction of Anderson Robbins Research (D) and Shaw & Company Research (R) 2015.



«UAE Counter-Piracy Conference» Holds its Fourth Session in Dubai

**Abdullah bin Zayed:  
fighting the phenomenon is an Emirati  
priority... and we will pursue our procedures  
in agreement with partners to prevent its  
impacts onshore and offshore**

The United Arab Emirates stressed that it will pursue its procedures, in agreement with concerned governments and companies; in order to fight the effects of maritime piracy, onshore and offshore, and that it will remain committed to its obligations to ensure the safety of the world's oceans and the well-being of the population and sailors alike

Participants in the «Counter-Piracy Conference», which held its fourth edition in Dubai, emphasised that finding remedial solutions on land and bringing about stability in this region is a prerequisite to ensure the continuity of safety and security for the users of global maritime trade routes

Participants pointed out, in the final statement of the conference, that they were able to develop a framework at the national, regional and international levels to promote the coordination of efforts; in order to ensure the effectiveness of anti-piracy efforts at sea, as well as regional threats on land.

Outstanding results were achieved under these difficult circumstances, thanks to all the discussions that sought to reach constructive solutions, which will have a profound and long-lasting impact on the future of Africa and the world

Source: <http://www.ncema.gov.ae/content/documents/Tawaree%2011%20English.pdf>



# France details nine ways to spot jihadi recruits — including kids who buy new clothes and stop eating baguettes

Source: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/europe/france-details-nine-ways-to-spot-jihadi-recruits--including-kids-who-buy-new-clothes-and-stop-eating-baguettes-10013672.html>

**The French government has launched a campaign which appears to warn parents that their children may have been recruited by terrorists if they stop eating baguettes.**

It comes amid increasing worry about the radicalisation of young French men, after an eight-year-old boy was questioned by police for failing to observe a nationwide two-minute silence and said: "I am not Charlie. I am with the terrorists".

**The advice lays out nine ways to spot that a child seems to have been radicalised.**

1. They are wary of their old friends, who they now consider "impure";
2. They reject members of their family;
3. They quickly change their eating habits;
4. They abandon school or professional training because they see the work as part of the plot
5. They stop listening to music because it is a diversion from the "mission";
6. They don't want TV or go to the cinema, because they might see banned images;
7. They stop taking part in sporting activities, because they are mixed gender;
8. They change their normal clothes, particularly girls, for clothes that cover their body;
9. They assiduously frequent social networks of radical or extremist character: It says that they also withdraw into themselves, keep themselves from social occasions, and reject all forms of authority or the collective life.

**The chart does note that: "Each situation is specific; the identification of one or more of these signs does not imply systematic radicalisation."**

The chart was launched alongside a newly built website and programme that together. The site was launched with a sickly produced video that shows clips of graphic executions and crucifixions. It displays the kind of messages that jihadists supposedly tell young recruits — and then displays the "truthful" message in front of the horrifying video. One of the messages shows colour pictures of IS fighters and says "They say to you: 'sacrifice yourself at our side, you defend a just cause'". The screen then

**STOP-DJIHADISME** gouv.fr  
Agir contre la menace terroriste

## RADICALISATION DJIHADISTE

### LES PREMIERS SIGNES QUI PEUVENT ALERTER

Les comportements suivants peuvent être les signes qu'un processus de radicalisation est en marche. Plus ils sont nombreux, plus ils doivent alerter la famille et l'entourage.

- Ils se méfient des anciens amis qu'ils considéraient maintenant comme des « impurs ».
- Ils rejettent des membres de leur famille.
- Ils changent brutalement leurs habitudes alimentaires.
- Ils abandonnent l'école ou la formation professionnelle car l'enseignement dispensé fait partie du complot.
- Ils arrêtent d'écouter de la musique car elle les détourne de leur « mission ».
- Ils ne regardent plus la télévision et ne vont plus au cinéma car on y voit des images qui leur sont interdites.
- Ils arrêtent les activités sportives parce qu'elles sont mixtes.
- Ils changent leur tenue vestimentaire notamment pour les filles, avec des vêtements qui cachent le corps.
- Ils fréquentent assidûment des sites et des réseaux sociaux à caractère radical ou extrémiste.

Mais aussi ils se replient sur eux-mêmes, tiennent des propos associés, rejettent toute forme d'autorité, ou la vie en collectivité.

Chaque situation est spécifique, l'identification d'un ou plusieurs signes n'implique pas systématiquement une radicalisation.

**SI VOUS AVEZ DES DOUTES, DES QUESTIONS :**

**N°Vert 0 800 00 56 96**  
APPEL GRATUIT DEPUIS UN PORTE FIXE



turns to black and white pictures of people wearing hoods and says: "In reality, you will discover hell on earth and die alone, a long way from your home".

It is being run by the French Interior Ministry,



**STOP-DJIHADISME.gouv.fr**  
 Agir contre la menace terroriste

try and discourage potential terrorists from joining groups such as Isis.

Like Stop-Djihadisme, it seeks to combat propaganda by posting tales of the horror of such groups, as well as spreading its own

and the site is hosted online at [stop-djihadisme.gouv.fr](http://stop-djihadisme.gouv.fr). Clicking on the video shows the graphic and horrifying footage automatically, soon after it is launched.

The video also features pictures of the kinds of posts that the site has been set up to combat. It includes Facebook and YouTube posts of supporters of IS and other groups.

The programme has promoted a hashtag, #stopdjihadisme, that has mostly been used to ridicule it on Twitter. The hashtag trended in France yesterday, but was helped by posts mocking the recommendations, particularly those about clothes and food.

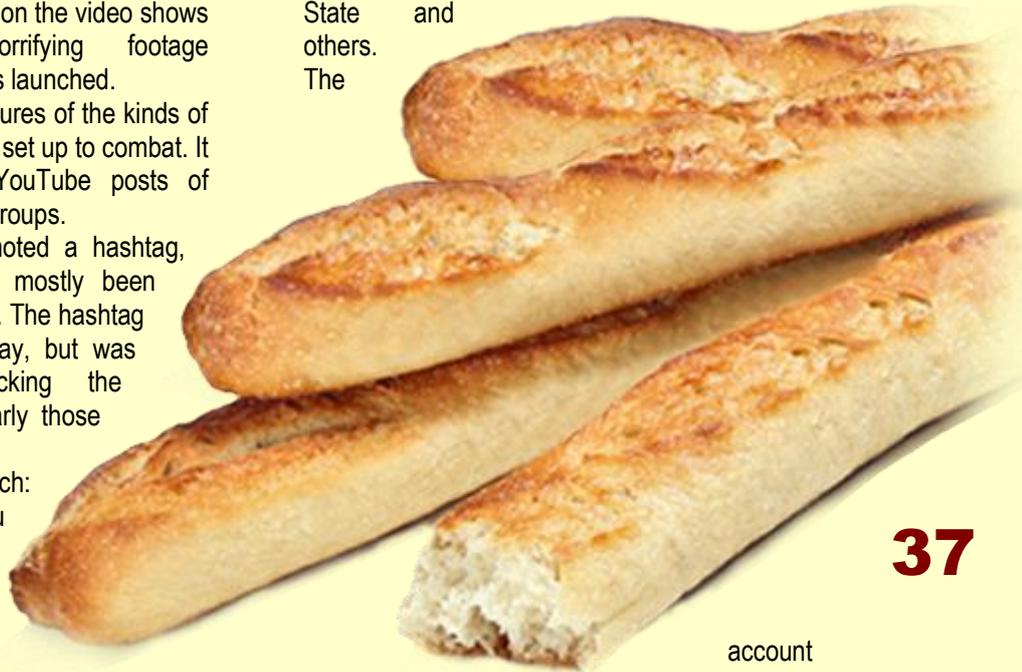
One user wrote, in French: "the government invites you to be wary of those that don't eat baguettes".

The site has a similar approach and feel to Think Again Turn Away,

a site set up by the US Department of State to

information about the weakness of Islamic State and others.

The



37

account came out in

support of the French programme.

## London Needs 'Tens of Millions' For Security Following Paris Attacks

By Kylie Bull (Managing Editor HSToday.com)

Source: <http://www.hstoday.us/single-article/london-needs-tens-of-millions-for-security-following-paris-attacks/05c7d3d0c230795b808dc403bfffec9e.html>

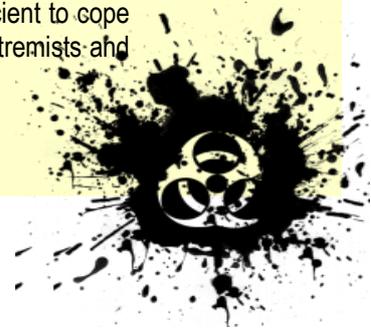
London's Metropolitan Police Commissioner Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe said the British government must spend tens of millions in order to prepare the capital for incidents like the Paris attacks.

Speaking at a police and crime assembly on January 29, he said terrorists' increasing use of online networks was putting a huge strain on the police force and that multiple suspects could not be followed all of the time without an increase in resources.

Following the Paris attacks, the UK government announced an additional

£130m on top of the £564m national counterterrorism budget. The Home Office is yet to allocate the additional £130m which is set to be distributed to police and security services over the next two years.

In tandem, Stephen Greenhalgh, London's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, is calling for an extra £20 million of government funding to protect London. Greenhalgh said the amount currently earmarked for the capital is insufficient to cope with the threat from homegrown extremists and fighters returning from Syria.



**“We are having an arrest nearly every day, 50 percent of the undercover counterterrorism work is here in London and half of the people returning from Syria are in London so there is a huge volume of activity that needs to be carried out,”**

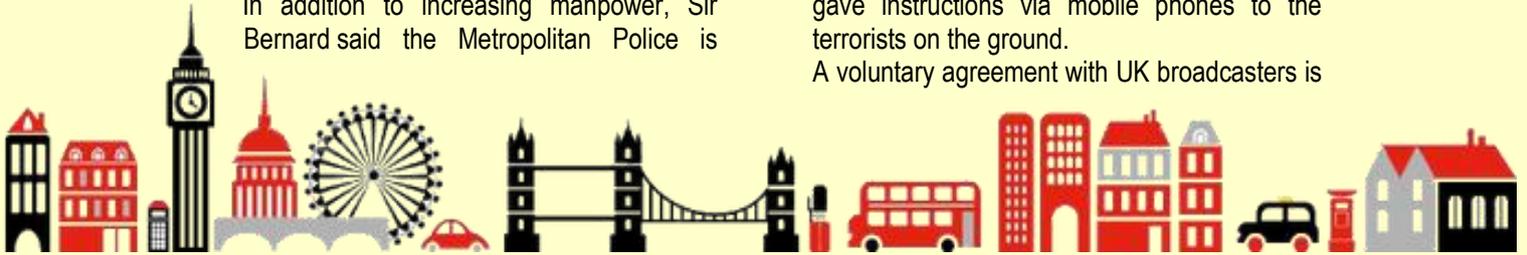
Greenhalgh said.

In addition to increasing manpower, Sir Bernard said the Metropolitan Police is

coverage in Australia during the Sydney siege and the fear is that hostage takers could be tipped off about an impending rescue mission, with the police or military losing any element of surprise.

In 2008, planners of the Mumbai attack based in Pakistan, watched live TV coverage and gave instructions via mobile phones to the terrorists on the ground.

A voluntary agreement with UK broadcasters is



currently reviewing the number of armed officers in the wake of the Paris attacks and looks set to train hundreds more officers to deal with possible gun attacks in London.

He admitted the number of police marksmen had fallen in recent years -- currently, 2,700 officers are authorized to carry guns in London -- and said one option was to train members of the Territorial Support Group as a firearms reserve.

**The assembly also heard how Metropolitan Police officials are speaking to television stations amid fears that live coverage of police raids could compromise operations.**

In Paris there was live TV coverage as officers engaged in near-simultaneous raids on two terror hostage sites. There was similar

already in place but Sir Bernard said the recent talks were needed to refine this.

Meanwhile, the *London Evening Standard* revealed the results of a YouGov survey into capital punishment. The survey found nearly half (49 percent) of Londoners support the death penalty for murder during terrorist attacks, such as the killing of Fusilier Lee Rigby.

**The gender divide showed 55 percent of London males believe terrorist murderers should be executed, with 42 percent of women voting the same.** Britain abolished the death penalty for all crimes in 1965 and a return to execution would surely be a propaganda coup for the likes of the Islamic State and Al Qaeda.

## Yale student-based think tank to focus on conflicts, terrorism

Source: <http://www.nhregister.com/general-news/20150131/yale-student-based-think-tank-to-focus-on-conflicts-terrorism>

The city's rich mix of U.S. and international students and refugees from conflict-torn places like Iraq and Afghanistan has borne fruit in a new think tank that will try to bring a youthful point of view to world events.

**Prologue Strategies LLC**, is **“the first Yale student-based think tank,”** according to one of its founders, **Hamed Zarghoon**, a native of Afghanistan and a student at the **Jackson**

**Institute for Global Affairs at Yale**. The company will focus on international security, counterterrorism, conflict analysis and post-conflict development, among other issues.

Tom Berry, who served as a captain in the U.S. Army in Iraq and Afghanistan and is now a

member of the Connecticut National Guard, said the group saw that current decision-makers, whether in the military or in government, “don’t have access to a combination of young perspective and expertise.”

Prologue Strategies will try to fill that gap by drawing on the experiences of young people both in New Haven and abroad.

“At 18, I can bring my soldiers to war, and I have,” said Berry. Now, however, “I want to mobilize their participation” in decision-making about the conflicts the United States finds itself involved in, he said.

“Unbiased, independent research is what we promise,” said Zarghoon. “This is a cohort that



nobody has tapped into previously. “We believe if our policy-makers in this country had good information when we went to Afghanistan or when we went to Iraq ... we could have avoided some of the decisions that were made.”

Miranda Melcher, a student at Yale who lived as an expatriate in China, provides the academic expertise, having studied civil wars “in the Middle East and Africa since the end of World War II. She will “draw on the academic expertise and the interest of the undergraduates” to “use all of the academic potential we have at Yale.”

Saifullah Khan, who was born in Pakistan, said the second resource in New Haven that Prologue Strategies will draw on is “the refugee community that exists in southern Connecticut,” especially those from Iraq and Afghanistan.

They have also partnered with universities abroad and plan to do surveys of young people in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Berry said the ideal will be “where we bring in a refugee and a Yale student and they are doing something positively to influence the government.”

**The company will issue position papers and has made contact with governmental decision-makers whom they declined to name.**

Zarghoon said the emphasis will be on bringing to bear a youthful perspective to world conflict and its possible solutions, including data analysis and social media. “In order to understand this group, we want to see the world through their eyes,” he said.

“We want to hear on-the-ground perspectives [and] combine it with an academic perspective,” Berry said.

Khan, who said the group is self-financed, said, “I’m very hopeful at the prospects for us and I think we can do great things for this country and in the international arena.

## African security Boko Haram expands attacks as Chad’s military joins fighting

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150202-boko-haram-expands-attacks-as-chad-s-military-joins-fighting>

Feb 02 – Early Sunday, Boko Haram Islamist militants have attacked Maiduguri, the biggest



city in north-east Nigeria, from four fronts overnight. The militants, employing artillery and rocket fire, bombarded the city throughout Sunday. Yesterday’s assault was the third attack Maiduguri in the past seven days.

A senior Nigerian army officer said the militants were everywhere, attacking from all four roads leading into the city of about two million residents. The militants have blocked all roads leading in and out of the city, and continued shelling the Maiduguri’s international airport, which has been closed since the insurgents,

back in December, launched an attack which destroyed five aircraft at a neighboring Nigerian air force base.

The pitched battles of the past seven days saw the first participation of Nigeria’s neighbors in the fighting against Boko Haram. Several fighter jets from neighboring Chad bombed the Islamist forces out of the city of Gamboru on Nigeria’s north-east border with Cameroon. The *Guardian* reports that Boko Haram insurgents had held the trading center since last August.

Last Thursday a Chadian army ground force liberated Malumfatori by evicting the Islamists from the border town, which was under their sway for months.

**The active involvement by Chadian forces parallels the authorization on Saturday by the leaders of Nigeria and its four neighbors – Cameroon, Chad, Niger, and Benin – to create a 7,500-strong force from Nigeria and its neighbors to confront the growth of Boko Haram.**



Maiduguri is the birthplace of the extremist movement.

group began to operate in western Cameroon and Western Chad. Nigeria's inability to deal



In the past, Nigeria had opposed outside involvement in the effort to defeat Boko Haram. The convening of the Saturday summit by Nigeria and its neighbors was a tacit admission by Nigeria that it could not defeat the Islamists

with the militants now became a regional issue, and the neighbors pressured Nigeria to allow them to help in the campaign.

In August, Boko Haram declared an Islamic caliphate in north-east Nigeria. Amnesty

International says the group now holds about 130 towns and villages.

**A study by the U.S. Council on Foreign Relations notes that the Islamists have increased the tempo and intensified the ferocity of their attacks. They killed about 10,000 in 2014 alone, compared with about 2,000 in the first four years of the uprising (2009-2013).**

There is a presidential election in Nigeria on 14 February. Those Nigerians who live in Boko Haram-



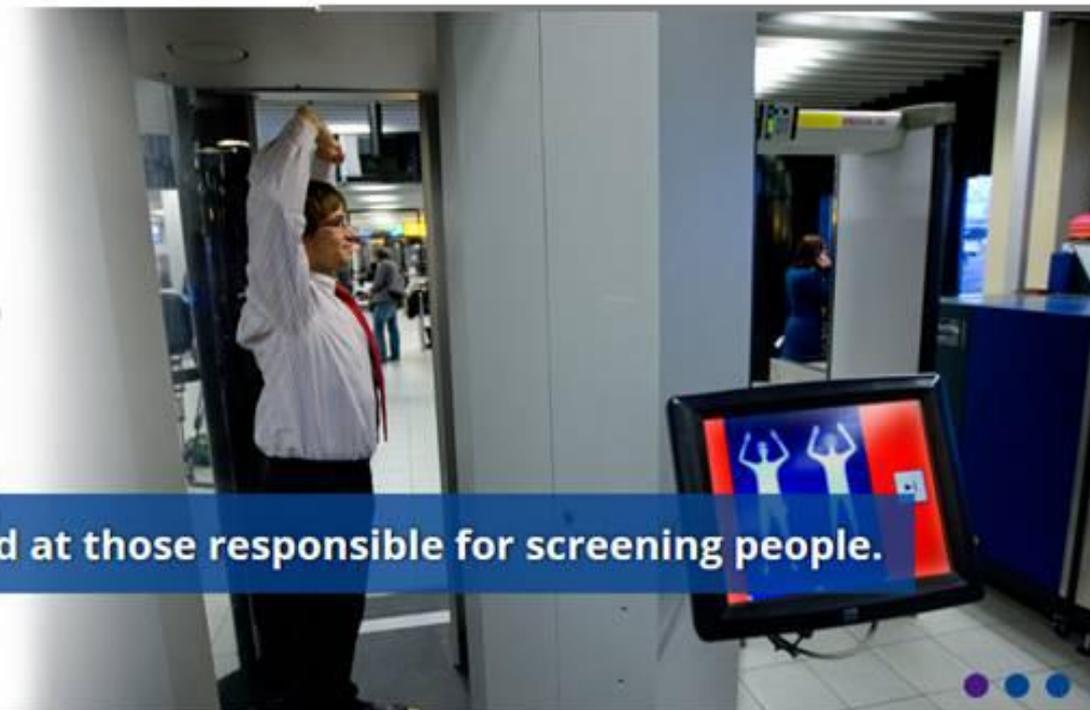
without outside help. Nigeria is a country of about 173 million people and has one of the largest militaries on the continent, but the military has been hollowed out by corruption and weakened and demoralized by incompetence. In May 2013 Nigeria has placed the country's three north-eastern states under a state of emergency and sent tens of thousands of troops to fight Boko Haram. The Nigerian military proved to be no match for the Islamists, and the militants have only expanded their reach and intensified their violence.

In recent months, Boko Haram has become more than an internal Nigerian issue, as the controlled area will not participate in the elections. More than 1.5 million Nigerians have fled their homes in the north-east in the face of advancing Islamist forces, and they will not be able to vote, either, as Nigerian law stipulates that people can vote only where they live.

Observers note that President Goodluck Jonathan would not be overly concerned with that, since the north-east, even before the rise of Boko Haram, tended to vote for opposition parties.







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- Body Cavity IEDs
- Detection Technologies
- Physical Search Protocols
- Animal Olfaction
- Suicidal Terrorism
- Drug Trafficking
- Mining Theft
- Prison Crime
- Discrimination & Ethical Issues

### Who should attend?

- Airport Security Managers
- Prison Governors
- Police
- Customs Officials
- Quarantine Officers
- Government Regulators
- Contract Screening Providers
- Maritime Security Managers
- Venue Security Managers
- Museum Security Managers
- Flight Attendant Trainers
- Door Security Supervisor Trainers
- Security Instructors
- Embassy Guards
- Technology Manufacturers
- Academics



## Turkish Islamists: Je Suis Kouachi!

By Burak Bekdil

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5004/turkish-islamists-kouachi-brothers>

On January 16, Muslims in Istanbul's devout Fatih district went to the mosque for their usual Friday prayers. Before crowds appeared in front of the mosque, everything looked normal. It was going to be just another day of quiet prayers. But this time, mosque-goers gathered earlier than the usual hour. They were there to hold funeral services (in absentia) for the terrorists who perpetrated the murderous attack on *Charlie Hebdo* in Paris -- the Kouachi brothers. Then the worshippers at the mosque held a demonstration with a banner and placards:



Demonstrators praise the Kouachi brothers in the courtyard of Fatih mosque in Istanbul on January 16.



"If freedom of expression has no limits, be prepared for our freedom to commit actions with no limits."

"We are threatening (you)! Do you dare?"

"We are all Kouachi" (in what appears like the Turkish response to the *Charlie Hebdo* slogan 'Je suis Charlie')

In a similar eulogy, members of the Aczmendi Lodge in Istanbul conducted funeral prayers for the Kouachi brothers and praised them as "martyrs." And a billboard in the eastern town of Tatvan read: "Salute to the Kouachi brothers who avenged the Messenger of Allah. May Allah accept your martyrdom."

Allah accept your martyrdom."

All of which prompted prominent Turkish columnist Anmet Hakan to ask in the daily, *Hurriyet*: "Are Muslims who are killed by other Muslims the orphans of the Muslim world?" He was curious why the articles of the Turkish Penal Code that regulate "praising crime and criminals" were never applied to Islamist

protesters while Turkish prosecutors, citing the same article, have the habit of indicting thousands of other individuals. Good question. But it will most likely remain unanswered. Forever.

A billboard in the eastern town of Tatvan reads: "Salute to the Kouachi brothers who avenged the Messenger of Allah. May Allah accept your martyrdom."

The fact is, Turkey's ruling Islamists and their judges probably do not view the Kouachi brothers as people whose praise should amount to offence on the basis of praising criminals. On a de facto basis, perhaps, the Kouachi brothers are not even viewed as criminals. But that should not come as a surprise for a country



whose prime minister has just offered a red-carpet welcome ceremony to Khaled Mashaal, head of Hamas' political bureau.

Prime Minister Ahmet Davutoglu who, ironically, was among the many statesmen from across the world who marched in Paris for solidarity with the victims and denounce terror, thinks that Israel's Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, is no different than the Kouachi brothers who left behind 17 dead. Davutoglu said that Netanyahu has committed crimes against humanity the same as those terrorists who carried out the Paris massacre. Insane? Just Turkish Islamism.

Rafael Sadi, one of tens of thousands of Turkish Jews living in Israel, wrote an open letter to Davutoglu:

I have just watched your speech likening the Israeli prime minister to terrorists ... It is truly saddening that the country whose prime

minister who likened a man defending his country against Arab terrorism that has been unstopably targeting it for the last 67 years is my first country ...

As the prime minister of a country that has lost 40,000 citizens in terrorism, could you explain to me how should we treat those who come to kill our children? You call the leaders of the Hamas terror organization 'my brothers.' Your country, only last year, sent \$300 million to Hamas in financial aid. (The Turkish missile company) Roketsan sent to Hamas, through the company Tewazun, 10,000 rocket parts... And shamelessly you liken a prime minister who has devoted himself to protect his country to terrorists ...

I have felt pain [of your words], being a Turkish Jew and an Israeli citizen. Turkey does not deserve a prime ministerial attitude as such ...

**Ironically, Turkey's systematic euphemizing of Islamist terrorism comes at a time when the country itself is at risk of being a target of it**

Turks praise as martyrs. Recently, a police intelligence report raised red alert over 3000 or so people in Turkey with links to the jihadist Islamic State [IS], which has conquered parts of Syria and Iraq. The

Davutoglu, Cavusoglu and their fellow Islamists in the Turkish cabinet should have thought about that grim possibility much earlier. In October, Metropoll, a Turkish pollster, found that "only a mere five percent of Turks felt sympathetic to ISIL." So, jihadist sentiment in Turkey was only marginal. But this author wrote at that time:

*If a mere 5% of Turks feel sympathetic to ISIL, it means there are nearly 4 million souls residing in Turkey who feel sympathetic to jihadists.*

*And that is too many. If 10% of ISIL sympathizers in Turkey decided to join the jihad, that would mean 400,000 new jihadists willing to fight across the border in Iraq and Syria, or inside Turkey if they think Ankara allied with the West against their Salafist comrades.*

**Davutoglu should be able to understand that if a terrorist decided to strike Turkey in the name of jihad, his name will not be Benjamin Netanyahu.**

are deeply concerned over possible future acts of terror by IS "sleeper cells" in Turkey. Worse, those 3000 pro-IS sleeper cell members in Turkey come in addition to between 700 and 1000 Turks fighting for IS in Iraq and Syria. Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu has admitted Turkey's concern over their potential return to Turkey.

*Burak Bekdil, based in Ankara, is a columnist for the Turkish daily Hürriyet and a fellow at the Middle East Forum.*



# Burned alive in a cage: ISIS release video claiming to show horrifying murder of captured Jordanian pilot

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2938199/Burned-alive-cage-ISIS-release-video-claiming-horrifying-murder-captured-Jordanian-pilot.html>

Feb 03 – Militants fighting for the Islamic State terror group in Syria and Iraq have released a video they claim shows Jordanian pilot Maaz al-Kassasbeh being burnt alive while locked in a cage. The footage, which is titled 'Healing the Believers Chests' appears to show the captured airman wearing an orange jumpsuit as a trail of petrol leading up to the cage is seen being set alight. Flames are seen quickly spreading to the cage where they completely engulf the helpless pilot in images that are far too distressing to publish.



Yesterday Jordan government spokesman Mohammed al-Momeni said the kingdom was doing 'everything' it could to secure the release of Kassasbeh, who was captured by ISIS after his F-16 fighter jet crashed in territory controlled by the militants in Syria in December.



However the statement came with an explicit threat that if 'hero' Kassasbeh came to any harm, Jordan would 'quickly judge and sentence' all those it holds on suspicion of being members of ISIS. The video comes just days after ISIS' British executioner in chief, Jihadi John, savagely murdered Japanese journalist

Kenji Goto in a shocking filmed beheading after days of intensive negotiations through intermediaries to save him.

Yesterday Jordanian government spokesman Momeni said: 'All state organisations have been mobilised to secure the proof of life that we require so that he can be freed and returned to his home.'



'We are still ready to hand over the convict Sajida al-Rishawi in return for the return of our son and our hero,' Mohammad al-Momani added. He condemned the jihadists' murder of Japanese journalist 47-year-old Goto after days of intensive efforts through intermediaries to save him, adding: 'We spared no effort, in coordination with the Japanese government, to save his life.' Last week Jordan vowed to fast-track the execution of Sajida al-Rishawi if ISIS kills Kaseasbeh. It apparently warned ISIS that she and other jailed ISIS commanders would be 'quickly judged and sentenced' in revenge for the execution of the pilot. Intelligence sources said ISIS's refusal to prove that Kaseasbeh was alive meant any deal with the militants was doomed. Jordan subsequently stepped up its rhetoric by warning of its intent to retaliate if the negotiations end in bloodshed.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Notice the terminology in the first line of the article: "*militants fighting for the Islamic State terror group in Syria and Iraq*". Anything not to upset the enemy!

**UPDATE (Feb 04)**

**Jordan hangs two Iraqi militants in response to pilot's death**

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/04/us-mideast-crisis-killing-idUSKBNOL71XE20150204>

Feb 04 – Jordan hanged two Iraqi jihadists on Wednesday including a female militant in response to an Islamic State video appearing to show a captured Jordanian pilot being burnt alive by the hardline group.

Islamic State had demanded the release of the woman, Sajida al-Rishawi, in exchange for a Japanese



hostage who was later killed. **Sentenced to death in 2005 for her a role in a suicide bomb attack in Amman, Rishawi was executed at dawn,** a security source and state television said.

Jordan, which is part of the U.S.-led alliance against Islamic State, has promised an "earth-shaking response" to the killing of its pilot, Muath al-Kasaesbeh (photo), who was captured in

December when his F-16 crashed over northeastern Syria.

**Authorities also executed Ziad al-Karbouli, a senior al Qaeda prisoner, an Iraqi man who was sentenced to death in 2008.**

The fate of Kasaesbeh, a member of a large tribe that forms the backbone of support for the country's Hashemite monarchy, has gripped Jordan for weeks and some Jordanians have criticized King Abdullah for embroiling them in the U.S.-led war that they say will provoke a militant backlash.

The Jordanian army has vowed to avenge his death, and some analysts believe it could escalate its involvement in the campaign against Islamic State, which has seized large areas of Iraq and Syria, Jordan's neighbors to the north and east.

The prisoners were executed in Swaqa prison, a large facility 70 km (45 miles) south of the capital, Amman, just before dawn, a security source who was familiar with the case said.

"They were both calm and showed no emotions and just prayed," the source added without elaborating.



Rishawi, in her mid-forties, was sentenced to death for her role in the 2005 suicide attack at a luxury hotel in Amman. She was meant to die in the attack - the worst in Jordan's history - but her suicide bomb belt did not go off.

## MediaScotland Yard asks TV to limit live coverage of hostage incidents

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150204-scotland-yard-asks-tv-to-limit-live-coverage-of-hostage-incidents>

Feb 04 – **Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe, the commissioner Scotland Yard, has publicly requested that television news**



**organizations consider not broadcasting live images of police or special forces attempting to storm any terrorist siege in the city out of fear of further jeopardizing lives.**

As the *Guardian* reports, following the recent sieges in Paris and Sydney, security officials like Hogan-Howe worry that the intensive TV coverage could lead to informing the attackers as well.

“That’s something the public want to be informed about. Of course, we as the police want them to be informed...to make sure they are protected – but equally, when the police and the security service and sometimes the military respond, we want to make sure that our ability to respond is not restricted by things like live coverage. We have ongoing discussions with the media about how that happens,” said Hogan-Howe.

Metropolitan police officials met with broadcasters last week. **Previously, police have had a “voluntary agreement with**

**broadcasters, under which they agreed not to show live pictures of police or Special Forces preparing to storm a site.”** As a concession, police allowed the continued filming to be shared with the public after the event had concluded.

These agreements first followed after the London terrorist attacks of 2005.

“It’s a difficult balancing act for the authorities,” said Chris Webb, Scotland Yard’s head of news from that era. “They have to look at how to protect life, especially if taking executive action [sending armed police or Special Forces in to end a siege]. Images giving the bad guys prior warning can impact on the fate of the hostages, and get hostages or officers killed.”

**Part of the problem, according to him, is that the massive increase in social media coverage and platforms over the past ten years, which has greatly jeopardized an understanding that had previously existed.**

“You can ask broadcasters to use discretion, you can’t do the same with **social media**,” Webb added.

Some unnamed senior news executives involved in the talks say that while they are sensitive to the needs of police and their operations in terms of safety and efficiency, they also feel that it is important to safeguard editorial independence.

**Any restrictions that the police put forward will be considered, they said, but not automatically adopted.**

Spokespeople for Sky News and ITN have both confirmed that the meetings did take place last week.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** This is an important issue and should be equally addressed. Press and media should realize that when an operation is in progress the lives of responders is at stake if the enemy has real-time information about what is happening outside. The population is also interested but people can wait to read and watch all the "juicy" details later on. And if this polite approach of NSY is compromised then total control of news flow should be taken. It is odd to watch reporters and TV crews just a few meters behind SWATs and snapshots of the incident site before the case is over. Not to mention press helicopters and drones (soon) flying over the crime scene just for the "liberty of information"!



## Counterterrorism NYPD launches counterterrorism unit

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150204-nypd-launches-counterterrorism-unit>



Feb 04 – In the coming months, the New York Police Department (NYPD) patrol officers will spend more time visiting community members to learn about their public safety concerns, but the department has also launched a new unit, consisting of officers equipped with high-powered weapons that could be used for both keeping protests from becoming unruly and guarding terrorist targets such as Times Square.

The **Strategic Response Group (SRG)**, announced last Thursday, will soon responds to terror threats throughout the city, said Police Commissioner William J. Bratton.

For decades, the NYPD Emergency Service Unit handled many assignments requiring special weapons and tactics, but post-9/11, the NYPD also created heavily armed units known as Hercules teams. The SRG will now allow the city to handle certain emergencies without having periodically to take officers and squad cars from each precinct. “They’ll be equipped and trained in ways that patrol officers are not,” Bratton said. “It will allow us to staff important programs like site protection and critical-response vehicles — or CRV — without using precinct personnel.”

Bratton, since returning last year to lead the NYPD, has been tasked with improving the department’s relationships with local communities, but he is also faced with the increasing threat of lone-wolf terrorists, as counterterrorism officials warn that the recent attacks in Paris could have occurred in New York. In his State of the NYPD address to the Police Foundation, Bratton stressed that while the NYPD must maintain positive relationships with the public, the department must also be

able to quickly respond to big events including terror attacks.

The *New York Times* reports that since Bratton’s return, efforts have been underway to fulfill a **“new patrol model”** which incorporates a wide range of features, from equipping more officers with stun guns and improved bulletproof vests, to better community policing and outfitting the entire patrol force with body cameras. In one case, rookie officers in the 47th Precinct in the Bronx are now responsible for making and keeping up with their local contacts. Recently, officers in some parts of the city handed out movie tickets to young people for a showing of *Selma*.

The NYPD will also test out a **“highly**



**localized neighborhood policing plan”** in two precincts in Manhattan and two in Queens, in which officers focus on small sections of neighborhoods and are allowed more time to do so without having to respond to emergency calls outside of those neighborhoods. According to Bratton, the move would reduce the number of patrol officers who currently find themselves in either specialty roles or “running from call to call” in a department that “does not have enough police officers.”

Those efforts, however, have received less attention than the move to equip roughly 350 officers with heavy protective gear and machine guns, as well as training in counterterrorism tactics and “advanced disorder control.” “It (SRG) is designed for dealing with events like our recent protests or



incidents like Mumbai or what just happened in Paris,” Bratton said, referring to the 2008 terrorists attacks in India and the January attacks in Paris.

Police reform advocates have criticized plans for the new unit. It is “the opposite of progress,” said Priscilla Gonzalez, organizing director of Communities United for Police Reform. “Initial reports of Commissioner Bratton’s plans suggest the opposite of progress. His demands for less oversight of the NYPD and a more **militarized police force** that would use

counter-terrorism tactics against protesters are deeply misguided and frankly offensive.”

Since Bratton’s announcement, the **NYPD has “clarified” that the SRG will only work on counterterror initiatives. SRG “will not be involved in handling protests and demonstrations.** They’ll have no role in protests. Their response is single-fold. They’ll be doing counter-terror work. They’ll be assigned to different posts throughout the city,” Chief of Department James O’Neill told the *New York Daily News*.

## Radicalization U.S. Muslim leaders uneasy about counter-radicalization pilot program

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150204-u-s-muslim-leaders-uneasy-about-counter-radicalization-pilot-program>

Feb 04 – Later this month, the **White House and the Justice Department will host the Countering Violent Extremism summit and meet with leaders of America’s Muslim communities to launch a program aimed at curbing Islamist radicalization in the United States.** The **Twin Cities, Boston, and Los Angeles have been selected as pilot cities for the program,** but some Muslim leaders are concerned that federal law enforcement agencies will use the program to gather intelligence.

U.S. Attorney Andy Luger said the initiative, which grew out of conversations with concerned Somali-American community members, involves more after-school and mentoring programs for vulnerable youth. “I’ve met with hundreds, if not thousands, of community members to gather their thoughts on what we should be doing, and that’s in fact what we’re doing,” Luger said. “I’ve told people this has nothing to do with surveillance and investigations, and I’m telling the truth.”

American Muslim leaders, concerned about the federally backed program point to documents released last month by the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law, revealing that **in 2009, two law enforcement outreach programs in the Twin Cities were designed to support federal**

**counterterrorism investigations.** The FBI and St. Paul police department have claimed that they never gathered intelligence as part of those outreach programs. Jaylani Hussein, executive director of the Council on American-Islamic Relations, Minnesota, remains skeptical. “We want to make sure if the government says they’re here to do outreach, they’re doing outreach,” Hussein said. “We don’t want to create (mistrust) in that relationship. That puts more burdens on future cooperation.”

The *Duluth News Tribune* reports that, in one of the documents revealed by the Brennan Center, St. Paul police submitted a grant proposal to the Justice Department to create an outreach team of officers that would, in part, put together a list of “radicalized individuals” in the **Somali-American community.**

St. Paul Police Chief Tom Smith insists his staff did not assemble a list. “There wasn’t a database,” he said. “There isn’t a database.” According to Smith, the program did allow officers to win the trust of Somali-American youths, by taking them to soccer and other sport games. “If we’re intelligence gatherers on a soccer field, in a swimming pool, in a bowling alley, that’s just too much for me to comprehend,” Smith said. “It’s about building relationships and having documented and frank





conversations right now about the threat of ISIS."

Smith does admit that in at least one case, St. Paul police shared information with federal authorities. In that case, Smith learned that a Somali teen was being recruited to join a terrorist group in Somalia. "This young man was being recruited to go overseas to fight for al-Shabab — 14 years old," Smith said. "But we had a parent who gave us information, and that allowed us to learn more. And a mother got to save her 14-year-old son from disappearing from the streets of St. Paul."

Still, Muslim leaders worry about the potential to manipulate the newly formed program. Asad Zaman, executive director of the Muslim American Society of Minnesota, one of the partners in the St. Paul pilot program, said the relationship between the Muslim community and St. Paul police is positive, but he points to stories around the country where law enforcement has been accused of spying on mosques while purporting to do outreach. "Do I have to wait for it to happen in my backyard before I start getting skeptical?" Zaman asked. "I don't have to wait."

### When Moderate Muslims Speak, They're Ignored

By Tarek Fatah

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5007/moderate-muslims-ignored>



Kenji Goto, a fellow journalist, died Saturday. Another innocent man beheaded by those among my co-religionists who wish to rule the world and to annihilate all non-Muslims. This in order to pave the way for an end-of-times apocalypse.

Many Muslim heads hung in shame as Goto's head rolled into a barren desert ditch, while western politicians and media refused to call the Islamic State jihad what it is - a jihad.

Similarly, the now-familiar masked man who kills for the camera and who beheaded Goto, was referred to by most media not as a "jihadi terrorist of the Islamic State" (which is who and what he is), but rather as "a militant with a British accent".

In a January 11 *New York Times* ad, several prominent moderate Muslim leaders denounced Islamism.

At the official level, the Obama White House announced it will host a Feb. 18 "summit" to counter what it referred to as "violent extremism." **Note the choice of words again. Not "jihadi terrorism," but the much more vague "violent extremism."**

Dr. Zuhdi Jasser, head of the American Islamic Forum for Democracy and a former U.S. Navy Lt. Commander, told me by not naming "jihadi terrorism" and "Islamism" for what they are, the White House has paid heed to Islamists within the administration who still exert influence over it.

In contrast to those who refuse to call jihadi terrorism what it is, over 20 Muslim leaders recently took



out a remarkable full-page advertisement in the *New York Times* to denounce ISIS and Islamism.

In the ad, headlined: What Can Muslims Do To Reclaim Their 'Beautiful Religion'? they wrote: "Neither jihadism nor Islamism permit the equality of all humans irrespective of their race or religion and should therefore be rejected. Our denial and our relative silence must stop." The American signatories, led by Dr. Jasser,

They declared, "It is the duty of ... Muslims to actively and vigorously affirm and promote universal human rights, including gender equality and freedom of conscience. If Islam is a religion that stands for justice and peaceful coexistence, then the quest for an Islamic state cannot be justified as sanctioned by a just and merciful Creator."

In a stirring challenge to ordinary Muslims, their *New York Times* ad went on to say: "We must also recognize and loudly proclaim that the quest for any and all 'Islamic State(s)' has no place in modern times. Theocracy, particularly Islamism, is a proven failure. The path to justice and reform is through liberty."

**Instead of engaging with these progressive Muslims and supporting their call for reform, not only did the White House ignore them, but every media outlet I saw other than Fox News did as well.**

As if to reinforce the blindfold the Obama administration wears on these matters,

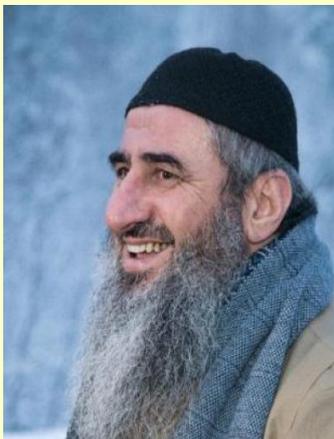
we also learned from Eric Schultz, the White House deputy press secretary, that the the U.S. government no longer considers the Taliban as a "jihadi terrorist" group, but rather as an "armed insurgency".

If this is how America fights its war against the Islamic State, ISIS will win, but not before many more innocents like Kenji Goto die.



also had the support of former Danish MP Naser Khedar; former Pakistan ambassador to the U.S. Hussain Haqqani, now a professor at Boston University; Toronto Sun columnist Farzana Hassan; Canadian Muslims Raheel Raza and Munir Pervaiz and Britain's leading Muslim warrior against Islamism, Majed Nawaz.

*Tarek Fatah is a founder of the Muslim Canadian Congress, a columnist at the Toronto Sun, host of a Sunday afternoon talk show on Toronto's NewsTalk1010 AM Radio, and a Robert J. and Abby B. Levine Fellow at the Middle East Forum. He is the author of two award-winning books: Chasing a Mirage: The Tragic Illusion of an Islamic State and The Jew is Not My Enemy: Unveiling the Myths that Fuel Muslim Anti-Semitism.*



## Norway banishes 'hate preacher' to remote village

Source: <http://tribune.com.pk/story/831953/norway-banishes-hate-preacher-to-remote-village/#.VNFu3bWTI3g.linkedin>

Feb 03 – The mullah, 58, who has been living in Norway since 1991, founded the radical Muslim group Ansar al-Islam. PHOTO: AFP

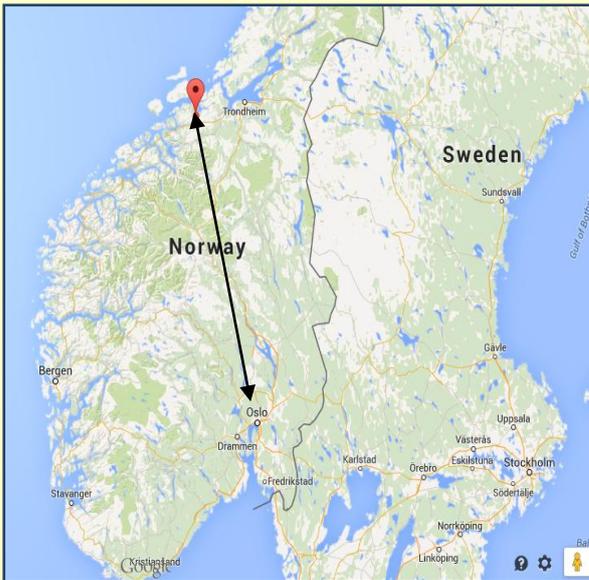
**A court in Oslo on Monday authorised police to banish Iraqi Kurd "hate preacher" Mullah Krekar to a remote Norwegian village**

The cleric, 58, who has been living in Norway since 1991, **founded the radical Muslim group Ansar al-Islam.**

He was released from prison at the end of January after serving a two-year, 10-month sentence for making threats against Prime Minister Erna Solberg, before she came to office, and three Kurds.



The police had invoked special measures to order Krekar, whose real name is Najmeddine Faraj Ahmad, to live in a refugee centre in Kyrksaeteroera, a village of 2,500 people situated 500 kilometres (300 miles) from the capital (red pin in the map).



The defence had argued that the court needed to examine the legality of the decision, which prohibits the married father of four from leaving the village and which requires him to report to local police three times a week.

“With some misgivings, the court considers that the basic national interest, at least until December 31, 2015, must take precedence over Faraj’s right to a family life, freedom to move freely throughout the country and to choose his own place of residence,” read the court’s decision.

Krekar’s lawyer, Brynjar Meling, appealed

the decision and asked that it be suspended pending review.

Krekar has been living under risk of deportation since 2003 after Norwegian authorities ordered him to be expelled, claiming he posed a threat to national security.

While Norway’s court system has upheld the ruling, Norwegian law bars him from being deported to Iraq, where he risks the death penalty.

While Krekar acknowledges having co-founded Ansar al-Islam, he insists he has not led the group since 2002.

**The preacher and the group Ansar al-Islam figure on United Nations and US lists of terrorist groups or individuals.**

## UAE halted Isis air attacks after pilot capture

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/04/uae-united-arab-emirates-isis-air-attacks-pilot>

Feb 04 – The United Arab Emirates has suspended its air attacks against the Islamic State in Syria since the capture of a Jordanian pilot who was burned alive by the jihadi group, it has emerged.

**US officials confirmed that the UAE, one of the four Arab states in the anti-Isis coalition, had ceased its participation because of concerns over a lack of contingency plans to rescue downed aircrew.**

The news came as Jordan pledged to strike back hard at Isis over the brutal murder of the pilot, Muadh al-Kasasbeh, but against a background of concern that after an initial backlash to satisfy calls for revenge, popular opposition to the campaign may grow in the kingdom.

Jordan said there would be an “earth-shattering response” – even before the hanging of two al-Qaida prisoners on Wednesday.

**The UAE, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and Bahrain joined the coalition when attacks began in September.** All have flown sorties against Isis targets, but in the absence of any statistics in US military communiques and silence in their own capitals, most observers believe their participation has been largely symbolic.

President Barack Obama was keen to have Sunni Arab support to avoid the impression that the US alone was fighting the jihadi group. But critics, in Jordan and elsewhere, still attack the operation as an “American war” that is doing little to turn the tide against President Bashar al-Assad’s regime in Syria.

**The New York Times reported that the UAE, shocked by Kasasbeh’s capture, is demanding that the Pentagon improve its search-and-rescue efforts, including the use of V-22 Osprey tilt-rotor aircraft, in northern Iraq, closer to the battleground, instead of basing the missions in Kuwait. The country’s pilots will not rejoin the fight until the Ospreys are put in place in northern Iraq,** the paper said.





UAE officials have also reportedly expressed concern to the US that Iran is playing too large a part in the war against Isis. They especially dislike the prominent role being played by Iranian-backed Shia militias in Iraq, where anti-Sunni sectarianism is rife. Saudi Arabia, Iran's greatest regional rival, shares those concerns.

The irony is that when the anti-Isis campaign began, the Emiratis were keen to advertise their participation, showcasing a female F16 pilot who flew one of the first sorties in Syria. The Saudis did the same with a pilot who was a member of the royal family. The Jordanians, by contrast, have maintained a lower profile, largely because of domestic criticism of King Abdullah's decision to take part.

Shaikh Abdullah Bin Zayed Al Nahyan, the UAE foreign minister, condemned Kasasbeh's murder. "This heinous crime represents a brutal escalation by [the] Daesh [Isis] terrorist group and revealed its evil goals," he said.

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## **Hospital shelled in Ukraine's rebel Donetsk, multiple casualties reported**

Source: <http://rt.com/news/229195-shell-hits-hospital-donetsk/>

**A hospital in the rebel stronghold of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine was hit by artillery shelling**, local authorities said. One person has been confirmed killed, with initial reports of over 15 feared dead.

**"There are multiple casualties at the hospital. A preliminary count says more than 15 people were killed,"** local emergency services told Interfax.

The Ukrainian prosecutor's website says from four to 10 people were killed in the shelling and blames the rebels.

The midday barrage also damaged a residential building nearby and a high-voltage power line, the city council said. The entire neighborhood is without power.

RT correspondent Roman Kosarev was one of the first journalists to arrive at the scene.

*"The OSCE monitors should investigate the site of the attack, determine the direction and the location, from which the barrage was fired and report their findings,"* a spokesman for the self-proclaimed Donetsk Peoples' Republic, Andrey Purgin, said.

Donetsk - a stronghold of forces opposed to the Kiev government - comes under artillery fire on a daily basis. The attacks continued even during the shaky ceasefire announced in September, but intensified in January when the truce collapsed.





Kiev routinely claims that the rebels themselves target civilians in order to frame their opponents. But a number of reports from international human rights organizations like Amnesty International confirmed that at least some of the attacks came from Ukrainian side.

Rights advocates accuse Ukrainian troops and rebels of using indiscriminate weapons like multiple rocket launchers against residential areas. Such actions violate rules of war because they make it practically impossible to avoid civilian casualties.

**The civil war in Eastern Ukraine has claimed at least 5,358 lives, according to the latest UN count.**

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## Islamic State: Terror as a Media Strategy

By Joseph V. Micallef

Source: [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joseph-v-micallef/islamic-state-terror-as-a\\_b\\_6614460.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/joseph-v-micallef/islamic-state-terror-as-a_b_6614460.html)

On August 19, 2014, Islamic State uploaded a short, four and a half minute video on YouTube entitled "A Message to America." The video began with a segment of US president Barack Obama announcing that the United States had begun conducting air strikes against IS forces in Iraq. The video then cut to a segment depicting American freelance journalist James Foley. Dressed in an orange tunic, vaguely similar to the tunics at times worn by detainees at the Guantanamo Bay Detention Camp, a kneeling Foley read a statement expressing regret for US actions. When Foley has finished reading his statement, a masked, black clad, IS fighter who was the executioner, denounced the air strikes and threatened that further American aggression would result "in the bloodshed of your people."

The video then showed a 10-second segment purporting to be the beheading of James Foley. The actual decapitation is not shown. It has been suggested that the film doesn't actually

show Foley being beheaded and that the act of decapitation occurred off film. The video then shows the decapitated body while the executioner announced that IS was also holding a second American journalist, Time Magazine contributor, Steven Joel Sotloff, and that he would be executed if the White House did not suspend further air strikes against IS. On September 2, 2014, a second video, this one showing the beheading of Sotloff, was released. This was the beginning of a long succession of beheadings that culminated with the executions of Japanese hostages Haruna Yukawa and Kenji Goto in January 2015.

A few days later, on February 3, 2015, in an even more grisly escalation of its repertoire of murder, Islamic State militants released a video showing Jordanian Air Force pilot, Lieutenant Muath al-Kaseasbeh, being burned to death while imprisoned in a metal cage. The slickly produced, 22-minute video, titled



"Healing of the Believers' Chests," showed the pilot standing in the cage with a fuel line leading to him. It also appears that his orange tunic, seemingly identical to the one that James Foley had been made to wear, had been doused with fuel. When the fuel was ignited Lieutenant Kaseasbeh caught fire and burned to death.

These acts of murder occurred against a backdrop of widespread violence, including summary execution, crucifixion, forced conversions to Islam, death by immolation and sexual slavery, instigated by IS militants across their recently seized territory in Syria and Iraq. The beheadings were quickly denounced throughout the world as acts of unspeakable barbarism and were equally condemned by a number of Islamic groups. This was not the first time, however, that beheadings or immolations had been used as an instrument of terror by radical Islamist organizations. Moreover, their recent use by such groups notwithstanding, the act of beheading or immolation are not a particularly or uniquely Islamist practice.

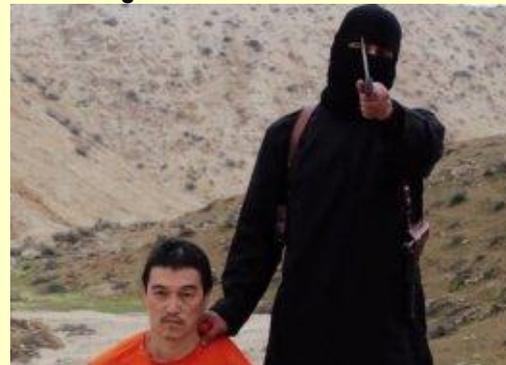
**The Origins of Beheadings as Capital Punishment**

Beheading or decapitation is a practice that dates back deep into the recesses of antiquity. Its root is the Latin word *caput* or head. It is the root of such terms as "capital punishment," "capital crimes," or "capital offense." It was the punishment meted out for particularly serious crimes. In times of war it was the means by which a victor demonstrated his absolute triumph over an opponent. David, after stunning Goliath with a stone from his sling, proceeded to cut off his head with Goliath's own sword. In Greek mythology Perseus decapitated the head of Medusa and then used her head as a weapon against his enemies. Decapitation, as a punishment, was widespread from Roman times, where it was considered preferable to crucifixion, through the Middle Ages and to the modern era. From Cicero to Anne Boleyn to Robespierre, beheading was often the punishment handed down to those deemed to be enemies of the state.

The guillotine, a mechanical form of decapitation deemed to be more humane, was the only legal method of execution in France from 1789 until 1981; when capital punishment was abolished. A German version, a guillotine like device called a "falling axe" or *fallbeil* was

used in Germany from the seventeenth through the twentieth centuries. Between 1933 and 1945, approximately 16,500 people were guillotined in Nazi Germany. West Germany abolished the practice in 1949. East Germany abolished it in 1966 after the execution of Horst Fischer, a former "doctor" at the Auschwitz concentration camp. Similar instruments, including precursors to the guillotine, were used throughout continental Europe and Great Britain between the twelfth and twentieth centuries. The same practice of beheading as a form of capital punishment was also widespread in Asia. Interestingly enough, beheadings as a form of capital punishment was never widespread in North America and the practice quickly died out.

**Beheadings and Jihadists**



Beheadings are still a legal form of punishment in Saudi Arabia, Iran, Qatar, and Yemen, although only Saudi Arabia still carries out such executions. In 2014, Saudi authorities executed 83 people, approximately half of who were foreigners. Radical Islamist groups point to both Mohammed and the Koran as justification of beheadings. According to Islamic lore, Mohammed ordered the beheading of Nadr ibn al-Harith and Uqbah ibn Abu Mu'ayt, two pagan opponents of Islam captured at the Battle of Badr. The ninth century Arab historian al-Waqidi claimed that Mohammed ordered the beheading of some 900 men of the Banu Qurayza tribe, although later Arab historians have disputed the account as unreliable. The 47th Surah of the Koran, often cited by Islamist radicals, states, according to the translation by historian Timothy Furnish, that "when you encounter the unbelievers on the battlefield strike off their heads until you have crushed them completely." The first reported case of a beheading by radical Islamist groups date back to the war in



Bosnia and Herzegovina (1992-95). There were a number of beheadings of Serb and Croat soldiers who had been captured by mujahedeen members of the Bosnian Army. Approximately 30 Serb civilians were also beheaded on Trebevic Mountain above Sarajevo and their bodies buried at the mass grave at Kazani. The International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY) documented both incidents in its investigation of war crimes committed during the Bosnian war. There were reports of numerous other beheadings that were investigated but not pursued by the ICTY for lack of evidence.

The second reported incident of beheadings occurred during the First Chechen War (1994-96). On May 23, 1996, Chechens beheaded Yevgeny Rodionov, a Russian soldier, for refusing to renounce his religion and convert to Islam. A second Russian soldier, Andrey Trusov, met the same fate. Rodionov has become widely venerated as a martyr by Russian Orthodox Christians, although the Russian church has not officially recognized him as such.

The first beheading to generate widespread public attention was the murder of American journalist Daniel Pearl on February 1, 2002. A militant group called the National Movement for the Restoration of Pakistani Sovereignty kidnapped Pearl, the South Asia Bureau Chief of the Wall Street Journal, on January 23, 2002. The group sent an email message to the US government claiming that Pearl was a spy. They demanded, among other things, the immediate freeing of all Pakistani detainees held by the US military and the release of a suspended shipment of F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan. In what was to become a familiar pattern, on February 21, 2002, a videotape titled "The Slaughter of the Spy-Journalist, the Jew Daniel Pearl," was released. The video lasted three minutes and thirty-six seconds and showed Pearl reading a statement denouncing American foreign policy. Following the statement, his head was severed.

On March 21, 2002, four men were charged with the kidnapping and murder of Daniel Pearl. They were convicted on July 15, 2002, and their leader Ahmed Omar Saeed Sheikh was sentenced to death. Omar Saeed Sheikh has repeatedly appealed his sentence but hearings on the matter have been repeatedly postponed. All four men remain in prison. London born and raised, Omar Saeed Sheikh

had ties to the Pakistani Directorate for Inter-Services Intelligence (ISI), but the nature and extent of these ties has never been fully disclosed.

On March 10, 2007, Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, widely considered to have been the third in command of al-Qaeda and the architect of numerous terrorist attacks, including the one on September 11, during a hearing of the Combatant Status Review Tribunal held at the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay, claimed responsibility for the murder of Daniel Pearl. Subsequent FBI analysis of the original video confirmed that the hand that held the knife that killed Daniel Pearl was virtually identical to that of Khalid Sheikh Mohammed. The actual relationship between al-Qaeda and the original group that kidnapped Pearl remains unclear, although the four men originally charged with the murder claimed they were acting under orders of Khalid.

On March 19, 2003, an "international" force consisting primarily of combat troops from the United States (148,000) and Great Britain (45,000), with token amounts from Australia and Poland, began an invasion of Iraq. Dubbed, "Operation Iraqi Freedom," major combat operations lasted just 21 days. Almost immediately, insurgent activity began in the Sunni heartland of Iraq. A group calling itself Jam'at al-Tawhid wal-Jihad (Organization of Monotheism and Jihad or Tawhid and Jihad) previously organized by Abu Musab al-Zarqawi took a leading role in the insurgency. Tawhid and Jihad, would undergo various name changes over the following twelve years and would eventually morph into the Islamic State (IS). Between 2003 and 2006, a total of approximately 200 foreign nationals and thousands of Iraqis were kidnapped by various groups of Islamic militants. Some of the hostages were subsequently released or liberated by coalition forces. Some were murdered, although not beheaded. Some hostages were never recovered and the manner of their deaths or remains are still unknown.

The first American beheaded during the Iraqi insurgency was Nicholas Berg, murdered on May 7, 2004, by al-Zarqawi. In a video released on the website of Muntada al-Ansar, "Helpers Forum," the jihadists claimed that the murder was in retaliation for abuses at Abu Ghraib. Over the



course of 2004, Tawhid and Jihad would take responsibility for seven more beheadings of foreigners. Kim Sun Il, a South Korean citizen, was beheaded on June 22, 2004, Georgi Lazov and Ivalio Kepov, two Bulgarian citizen were beheaded in July 2004. Lazov's body was found on July 14 and Kepov's body was found on July 22. Mohammed Mutawalli, an Egyptian citizen, was beheaded on August 10, 2004. There were twelve Nepalese taken hostage on August 23, 2004. A video from August 31, 2004, showed the beheading of one and the shooting in the head of the eleven others.

Eugene Armstrong and Jack Hensley, both US citizens, and Kenneth Bigley, a British citizen, were kidnapped on September 16, 2004. Al-Zarqawi then issued a communiqué demanding the release of all female prisoners held at the Abu Ghraib prison. Armstrong was beheaded on September 20 and Hensley was beheaded on September 21. Bigley was beheaded sometime in October 2004. In addition Shosei Koda, a Japanese citizen, was beheaded by on October 30, 2004, by Tawhid and Jihad jihadists operating under their new name "al-Qaeda in Iraq." Instances of beheadings against foreign nationals diminished after 2006. Although such actions against Iraqi citizens continued, but were generally unreported in the Western media.

The emergence of ISIS during 2013 brought a resurgence of the use of beheadings as an instrument of terror. Unconfirmed reports of beheadings of Syrian troops began in the spring of 2012, shortly after the arrival of radical jihadists in the Syrian Civil War. Beginning in 2013, however, and accelerating in 2014, reports of retaliatory beheadings carried out by jihadists began to increase. The first concrete evidence of beheadings by ISIS jihadists occurred on July 25, 2014, when a video was posted on social media showing the murder of approximately 75 Syrian Army soldiers from a recently captured base. There were also a number of earlier beheadings during the summer of 2013 carried out by al-Nusra Front militants

Since August 2014, a total of eight Westerners, three Americans, two British, and two Japanese have been beheaded. Seven, James Foley (August 19, 2014), Steven Sotloff (September 2, 2014), David Haines (September 13, 2014), Alan Henning (October 3, 2014), Peter Kassig (November 16, 2014), Haruna Yukawa (January 24, 2015) and Kenji

Goto (January 31, 2015) were beheaded by IS and one, Herve Gourdel (September 24, 2014), a French citizen, was beheaded by an IS affiliate in Algeria.

On January 20, 2015, Islamic State released a video showing the two Japanese hostages, Kenji Goto and Haruna Yukawa, in its custody and threatened to kill them unless the Japanese government agreed to pay a ransom of two hundred million dollars for their release. Yukawa was subsequently beheaded by Islamic State. Baghdadi then demanded to exchange the remaining hostage, Kenji Goto, for Sajida al-Rishawi, one of the bombers of the 2005 Radisson hotel bombing in Amman. She is the sister of Mubarak al-Rishawi, a key figure in AQI, and considered Zarqawi's right hand man before he was killed. Goto was also subsequently beheaded. IS then offered to exchange Lt. Kaseasbeh for al-Rishawi. After the murder of Kaseasbeh, the Jordanian government subsequently carried out the death sentence that had previously been placed on al-Rishawi.

There are at least two Lebanese Army personnel captured by IS, or its predecessor during military operations in Syria, who have also been beheaded. There is also an unspecified number of Lebanese Army troops currently being held by IS in Syria. In addition, there is evidence that at least 125 Syrian, Kurdish, and Iraqi troops, as well as Iraqi and Syrian citizens, have been beheaded by IS militants as of the end of December 2014. The actual number is probably much higher.

#### Death by Immolation

Death by burning or by the application of extreme heat has an equally long history as a form of capital punishment. Typically this took the form of being burned while tied to a stake. During the Spanish Inquisition, the burning of heretics at the stake was the final act of a long complex Inquisition process; a practice called auto-da-fe. The first reference to burning as a punishment dates back to the eighteenth century BC code of the Babylonian King Hammurabi. It was a common practice in classical antiquity, being practiced in Egypt, and throughout the Middle East. It was a common form of execution for Christian martyrs during Roman times. In AD 326, Constantine the Great decreed burning as the





punishment for men that committed rape. During the Middle Ages it was the punishment meted out to heretics and those considered enemies of the state. Jan Hus, accused of heresy, was burned at the stake. So was John Wycliffe, though in that case he had already been dead thirty years and it was only his remains that were actually burned. The Florentine Dominican friar, Savonarola, Jacques de Molay, the head of the Knights Templar, and Joan of Arc were all burned at the stake. Burning was the preferred method for executing those judged witches and sorcerers. It's hard to know how many people have been killed by burning. Estimates for the Spanish Inquisition have ranged from as little as three thousand to as many as two hundred thousand. Likewise, the number of witches burned at the stake may have ranged from a few hundred to several hundred thousand. The last official execution by burning occurred in 1813, although there may have been unreported cases as late as 1835.

There are a few cases of death by burning in the Muslim world, but these were relatively isolated. Death by burning was often the punishment for apostates that had taken up arms against Muslim rulers. The punishment was first used during the Ridda Wars, the so-called Wars of Apostasy in AD 632 and AD 633. These were a series of military campaigns by Muhammad's successor, Abu Bakr, against certain Arabian tribes that had abandoned Islam. The practice appears from time to time as punishment for non-Muslims who had illegally entered mosques or whom had refused to convert. On the whole it was a rare practice, however. The video released by Islamic State cited an obscure Koranic verse that justified punishing those who had inflicted harm with the same means that they had used. Muslim religious scholars were quick to point out, however, that the Koran forbids the desecration of corpses by burning, and specifically condemns death by burning.

#### **Postscript: Terror as a Media Strategy**

The practice of beheading, either as murder or as capital punishment, is not a particularly Islamic tradition, its persistence in Saudi Arabia notwithstanding. Neither is the practice of murder by burning. Both practices, however, have been adopted among radical jihadist groups to achieve a number of different purposes.

First, it is one element of a broader pattern of violence designed to intimidate the local population in the areas controlled by IS. Like most radical revolutions, IS has sought to liquidate any potential opposition and has defined such opposition, both as anyone who has opposed it, as well as anyone who had even the remotest links with the previous governing authorities. From candidates for political office to local government administrators to community leaders, anyone who cooperated or was part of the previous government is seen as an enemy. IS can't kill everyone who worked for the previous government. It could not administer its conquered territories if it did, but it can kill enough people to persuade the rest to cooperate.

It's not clear how IS decides whether it will behead an opponent or simply shoot them, or resort to some other method from its extensive repertoire of murder. It does appear that particularly fierce resistance to Islamic State is often met with beheadings or some other gruesome death of captured opponents. Knowing that surrendering is likely to end with death, possibly by being beheaded or crucifixion, might spur soldiers to fight more resolutely. It might also persuade them to throw down their weapons and run away. The latter response proved to be particularly popular in the Iraqi Army during the summer and fall of 2014.

Secondly, the threat of beheading prisoners, or subjecting them to some other form of gruesome death, is used as a means of extortion. Although both the British and American governments have resolutely refused to pay ransoms in exchange for their nationals, other countries have quietly paid such ransoms. In addition, Iraqi and Syrian citizens have also been extorted in this way. It is estimated that IS has obtained over one hundred million dollars through such ransoms and it is likely that the number is much higher.

Thirdly, beheadings allow IS to shape and control its media exposure in the West and is used as an instrument to mold the debate in the United States and Europe. Death by beheading is virtually instantaneous. It may not be much different than death by firing squad, but it is a particularly gruesome way to die. A beheading, accompanied by the requisite short video, is



guaranteed to generate press coverage in the international media. It is likely that the videos of beheadings circulated by IS are edited to maximize their shock value while ensuring that they are not so revolting that they will not be watched on social media sites. The press coverage and the accompanying public reaction ensures that IS, or whichever jihadist group that committed the beheading, is portrayed as a "deadly threat" to the West and ensures that it is seen in the Islamic world as the leading edge of the jihadist struggle. Death by immolation raises the horror factor one notch higher.

Moreover, such murders put Western governments under tremendous public pressure to "do something." The more IS threatens to kill Western hostages if the air attacks continue, the more likely it is that Western governments will continue them. Moreover, the more likely it is that Muslim communities will be viewed with suspicion and be singled out by police and security forces. There are echoes of al-Qaeda's core strategy here, namely that terrorist attacks against the West will produce an overwhelming over reaction against Muslims that it will serve to galvanize Islamic support for the jihadist movement. IS, in all probability, lacks the ability to engage in a spectacular 9/11 type attack against the United States. Its capabilities in Western Europe, on the other hand, are more extensive. Moreover, its capabilities notwithstanding, recent attacks in Sydney, Australia (December 15-16, 2014) and the Paris office of the satirical weekly Charlie Hebdo (January 7, 2015) demonstrate that Islamic State inspired, "lone wolf jihadists" can carry out terrorist attacks without the direct assistance or organization of IS.

We have become so sensitive to jihadist violence against the West, that beheadings and other forms of murder of Westerners are sufficient to galvanize a government response. In that sense such killings represent an act of

terrorism, not just against the hostage murdered, but against Western societies in general, and ensures that the jihadist struggle is defined as an Islamic struggle against Western civilization and not just an internal conflict within Islam. The burning of Lieutenant Kasasbeh may indicate that Islamic State is ratcheting up the shock value of its executions to ensure Western audiences don't become desensitized to them.

Finally, portraying the jihadist struggle as a conflict with the West, and the accompanying media coverage it generates, acts as a powerful tool for recruitment and fund raising. While support from wealthy donors now represents only a small portion of Islamic State's funding, it wants to hang on to that support and more importantly ensure that those funds don't go to potential jihadist rivals. A significant portion of IS's military force is made up of foreign nationals and it is estimated that it could include several thousand Westerners, mostly European, who have joined IS.

The emergence of what sociologists are calling "jihadi cool," the romanticization of jihadist activity among marginalized, disillusioned Islamic youth in European cities, coupled with the prospect of a salary, has proven to be a powerful attractant. The use of Western spokesmen on beheading videos not only ensures that the message is clearly understood, but drives home the threat by underscoring that the executioner portrayed in the video might have been a neighbor or a fellow passenger on the local metro just a few months before.

As long as the murder of Western hostages continues to generate widespread media coverage, and powerful public reaction, they will continue as part of the tactics used by IS and other jihadist groups to try to shape Western public opinion and their governments' response. In the meantime, the "horror factor" of jihadist violence against western hostages will, in all probability, continue to increase.

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## Pirates kill officer on Greek VLCC

Source: <http://www.tradewindsnews.com/piracy/353696/pirates-kill-officer-on-greek-vlcc>



Feb 04 – The Malta-flagged 281,000-dwt vessel **Kalamos** (built 2000) was awaiting loading off Bonny with 23 crew aboard when the incident occurred late on Tuesday, a ministry statement said. TradeWinds understands up to a dozen pirates attempted to board the ship. According to the ministry statement, the **ship's first officer was killed and three crew were abducted, including two Greeks.** Several other crew are thought to have been hurt. The officer died en route to hospital.



Manager Aeolos Management said the attack happened at 2200 hours local time on 3 February.

[The Niger delta](#)

"Two further officers and an able seaman were taken from the vessel by the gang and

remain unaccounted for," it added.

"All families of those involved in this incident have been contacted and are being supported where appropriate. The owners and managers heartfelt condolences go out to the family of the officer who so tragically lost his life."

AIS data records the vessel's last position on 2 February off the coast of Nigeria.

Platts news agency said the tanker's charterer was Indian refiner BPCL.

**Greek authorities said the tanker carried no cargo but other information suggests it could be part-laden with a 1m-barrel cargo from Akpo.** It was bound for Qua Iboe to lift another 950,000 barrels of crude when the attack took place.

Nigeria's security agency has retaken the vessel and were conducting an investigation on Wednesday.



## Sweden Grapples with Rising Extremism

By John C. K. Daly

Source: [http://www.jamestown.org/programs/tm/single/?tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=43511&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=26&cHash=138e685255a4e15904e8a30df4c56459#.VNUDei6TLz4](http://www.jamestown.org/programs/tm/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=43511&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=26&cHash=138e685255a4e15904e8a30df4c56459#.VNUDei6TLz4)

Placid constitutional monarchy Sweden used to be perceived as largely immune from Islamist terrorism; even Osama bin Laden, in a videotaped speech in November 2004, said: "Before I begin, I say to you that security is an indispensable pillar of human life and that free men do not forfeit their security, contrary to Bush's claim that we hate freedom. If so, then let him explain to us why we don't strike, for example, Sweden?" (al-Jazeera, November 1, 2004).



Remains of a mosque in Eskilstuna, Sweden after it was set on fire (Source: Pontus Stenberg).

Just over a decade later, Sweden is being forced to grapple with the issue of

radicalization in its Muslim communities, with the rise of the Islamic State threatening to catalyze existing trends of alienation, criminal and anti-Semitic violence and social polarization. **A 2009 U.S. government report stated that there were 450,000-500,000 Muslims in Sweden, composing around five percent of the total population.** [1] Large-scale Muslim immigration to Sweden began in the late 1960s, with immigration primarily from Turkey and the Balkans, later supplemented by arrivals from North Africa and the Middle East.

### Growing Radicalization

Although the problem of Islamist radicalization came to Sweden later than to other European countries such as the UK and France, this trend was evident by the early 2010s. One of the most visible signs of this development came in November 2010, when Sweden raised its national terrorism threat level to medium for the first time ever; it has remained elevated ever since. [2] The very next month, on December 11, a car bomb exploded in central Stockholm, following which the bomber detonated his own suicide vest on a street, killing himself (The Local [Stockholm], December 11, 2010). The bomber, a Swedish citizen of Iraqi origin, had emailed a news organization before the attacks to say that his attack was in retaliation for the presence of Swedish soldiers in Afghanistan and for controversial cartoons of the Prophet Muhammad drawn by a Swedish artist (Tidningarnas Telegrambyrå, December 11, 2010). Although the bomber was believed to have been at least partly radicalized in the UK and was potentially trained by militants in Iraq, the incident drew attention to the growing threat posed by radicalized Swedish nationals (Sverige Radio, October 22, 2014).

Although no equally significant Islamist attacks have occurred in Sweden since then, Swedish government assessments have continued to note the ongoing threat. For instance, in its 2013 annual report, the Swedish intelligence service Säkerhetspolisen (Säpo) noted:

Terrorist-related activities in Sweden are primarily carried out by those who are motivated by Islamist extremism and such activities most often serve to support terrorist offenses in conflict zones such as Iraq, Afghanistan, Somalia, Yemen and Syria. Several people are also known to have travelled from Sweden to conflict zones to engage in terrorist training or other unlawful acts of violence... The terrorist threat to Swedish interests stems mainly from violence-promoting Islamism or al-Qaeda-inspired groups. [3]

More recently, in November 2014, Säpo's director general, Anders Thornberg, estimated that around 200-300 Swedish citizens had travelled to Syria to join al-Qaeda-inspired groups, with around 20 of these being killed and others returning to Sweden (Sveriges Radio, November 22, 2014). Referring to the Iraq and Syria-bound Swedish



jihadists, Thornberg commented: “A certain number of young Swedish men are leaving and training in camps, learning to become terrorists to use explosives and weapons. They’re going beyond the bounds of human behavior. They’re fighting and killing other people.” Since then, Säpo seems to have grown increasingly concerned about terrorist groups’ recruitment of Swedish citizens, with spokesman Fredrik Milder saying in January 2015: “This is a national and international problem”(Sveriges Radio, January 23). Similarly, the chief police inspector of the capital Helsinki, Jari Taponen, said in January that of those who have travelled from Sweden to the Islamic State, 76 percent were Finnish passport holders and “almost 20” of whom were ethnic Finns (Yle TV1, January 22).

Evidence also suggests that Sweden may also see violence related to the ongoing tensions between Muslim radicals and wider society over issues relating to free speech and blasphemy. In particular, long predating France’s *Charlie Hebdo* controversy, Sweden had its own cartoon controversy in 2007, which has not yet entirely died down. The controversy followed the *Jyllands-Posten* Muhammad cartoons incident in Denmark in early 2006 and began on June 11, 2007, when Swedish artist Lars Vilks, after being invited to participate in an art exhibition on “The Dog in Art,” submitted three pen and ink drawings depicting Muhammad as a dog; Vilks had already drawn Muhammad in another exhibition in Vestfossen, Norway, leading to a number of reported threats against him (*Dagens Nyheter*, May 17, 2010). In 2011, police in Gothenburg arrested three men on suspicion of planning to murder Vilks (Goteborg Daily, September 21, 2011). Tensions over the issue re-emerged following the *Charlie Hebdo* shootings in Paris in early 2015. For instance, on January 7, a Swedish TV broadcaster accessed a secret Facebook group of Swedish jihadists and their supporters and found messages praising the attack on *Charlie Hebdo*’s offices in Paris. One user also posted, “Now these disgusting pigs will think twice before they mock Allah and His prophet,” while another called for Allah to “multiply such attacks” (Sveriges Television AB, January 7).

### Unrest

In addition to Islamist radicalization, Sweden has also faced broader problems with

integrating Muslim immigrants. This was illustrated in May 2013 when several Stockholm suburbs with large Muslim immigrant populations, including Husby, Rinkeby and Kista, were plagued by riots lasting two weeks and were only ended after a massive police effort and a huge civil society mobilization (Sveriges Radio, May 28, 2013). The riots left 30 police officers injured and caused an estimated 60 million krona of damage (\$6 million) (Sveriges Radio, July 29, 2013).

The challenges facing Sweden in integrating its large Muslim population are perhaps best illustrated in Malmö, Sweden’s third largest city, where 41 percent of the population have a foreign background (30 percent were born abroad and 11 percent are Swedish-born with foreign-born parents). [4] The city is marked by high levels of criminal and anti-Semitic violence, both of which often involve Muslims from the city’s low-income districts. In 2014, Malmö suffered 36 small-scale bombings, with targets including police stations, courts, a prosecutor’s office, a detention center and shops (10News.dk, December 28, 2014). Amid rising Muslim-Jewish tension in the city, Malmö police also recorded 60 hate crimes against Jews in 2012, up from an average of 22 in 2010 and 2011 (*Jerusalem Post*, August 1, 2013). Although most of these bombing incidents appear to be related to criminal and gang-related issues, rather than terrorism or ideologically-driven extremism, many also involved Muslim immigrants and therefore indicate the potential for Islamist extremists to access firearms and explosives.

### Government Response

In response to the above developments, and particularly to the involvement of Swedish citizens in the Islamic State group, the government is now considering revamping its national counter-terrorism strategy, which was last updated in 2012. According to Interior Minister Anders Ygeman, this is motivated by both the growing number of people fighting abroad and from assessments that these individuals may pose a threat to Sweden. Ygeman said: “We have those who travel and fight abroad and then come back, who can pose a terrorist threat” (Sveriges Radio, January 23). In addition, on January 11, Thornberg told the country’s



annual security policy meeting in Salen that Säpo had managed to prevent a terrorist attack on Sweden through online surveillance conducted with the assistance of the National Defense Radio Establishment. He also commented on the country's slowness to move into online monitoring: "It was terrible when we were the only Western democracy where the security police could not conduct online surveillance" (*Helsingin Sanomat* [Helsinki], January 13).

### Outlook

The scale of Muslim immigration into Sweden has long caused tensions between the Swedish population and the newcomers. More than two decades ago, on August 14, 1993, Sweden's Muslim community suffered its first arson attack when the Trollhättan mosque was burned to the ground (Polimasaren, August 19, 2014). Since then, strains between the two communities have slowly risen, no doubt partly prompted by growing radicalization among some elements of Sweden's Muslim

communities. In particular, there is a trend of mosques being attacked. Over an eight-day period in December-January 2015, several mosques in cities across Sweden – Eslöv, Eskilstuna and Uppsala – were torched in arson attacks (*Svenska Dagbladet* [Stockholm], January 4). On January 9, Gothenburg's main mosque was evacuated after a bomb threat, exacerbating Swedish Muslims' fear of reprisals following the *Charlie Hebdo* massacre in Paris (*Expressen* [Stockholm], January 9). These incidents, alongside the above evidence of growing Islamist radicalization, highlight the potential for further attempted terrorist attacks in Sweden and for broader unrest between Sweden's different communities. In particular, there is the clear potential for a cycle of violence to develop, fuelled by relatively easy access to firearms and explosives in cities such as Malmö, attacks on mosques, Islamist anger at perceived slights to their religion by artists such as Vilks, all fuelled further by the growing involvement of a significant number of Swedes in the Islamic State organization.

### Notes

1. "2009 Report on International Religious Freedom," U.S. Department of State, October 26, 2009, <http://www.state.gov/j/drl/rls/irf/2009/>.
2. "2013 Crime and Safety Report," Government of Sweden.
3. "Säkerhetspolisens årsbok 2013" (Security Service Yearbook), Säkerhetspolisen, pp. 29-31.
4. "Malmö stad - Malmöbor med utländsk bakgrund," Malmö city (City of Malmö - Malmö residents of foreign origin), <http://malmo.se/Kommun--politik/Statistik/Befolkning/Utlandsk-bakgrund.html>.

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## Radicalization U.K. counter-radicalization mentoring program proves successful

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150206-u-k-counterradicalization-mentoring-program-proves-successful>

Feb 06 – In 2006, the U.K. Home Office launched the Channel program to engage vulnerable youths with mentors who could steer them away from extremist propaganda, be it anti-immigrant politics or Islamist militancy. Only eighty young adults were referred to the program during its first two years, but last year, 1,281 were referred. To date, a total of 3,934 people have been referred to participate in Channel. About 20 percent of them were considered to require further consultation with mentors.

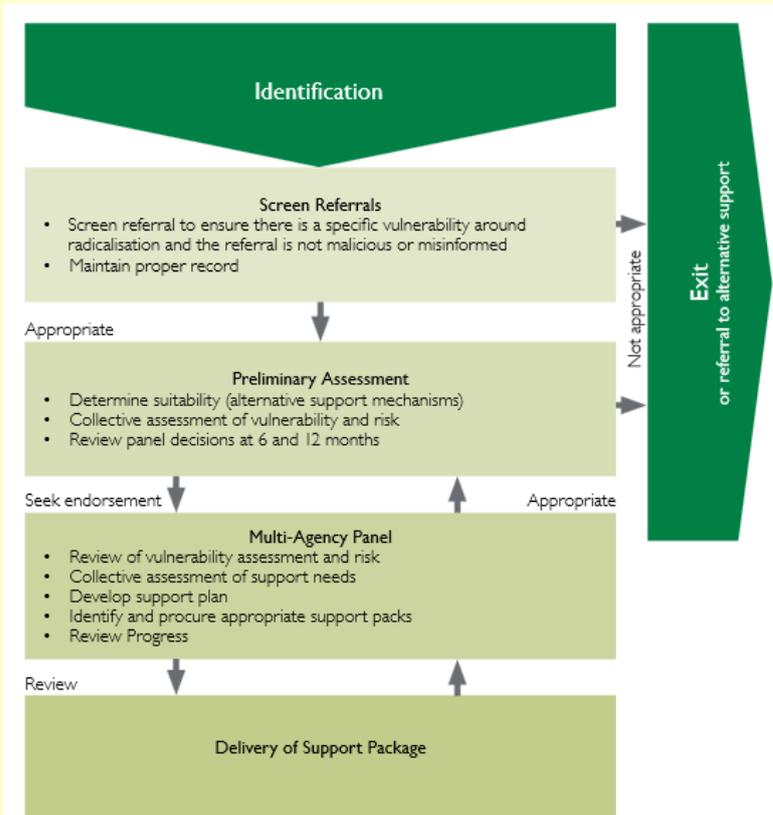
Referrals can come from a range of sources including community leaders, law enforcement, teachers, and even parents. Cases are then reviewed by a panel set up by local authorities and chaired by law enforcement officials who decide whether legal action or mentoring is needed.

The *Guardian* reports that Channel is part of the British government's wider counterterrorism effort, which includes preventing extremist



groups from spreading their message.

This diagram shows the different stages within the Channel process:



Sulaimaan Samuel, one of Channel’s mentors, warns that vulnerable young adults should not be viewed as potential terrorists, but as people from difficult personal circumstances and a limited worldview.

“Once upon a time people viewed extremism as 100 percent criminal, with the people involved criminals — basically, the police chasing bad guys. There are those people out there, trying to recruit people into this way of thinking, but there are also victims, ordinary citizens who get caught up in the online PR hype, and were swayed by the arguments.”

Channel is meant to interfere with vulnerable youths before a crime, such as joining a terror group, occurs. A significant portion of the program’s work involve youths contemplating joining a terror group because of the war in Syria. Samuel recounts the case of a mentee who, motivated by images of suffering in Syria, wanted to send money to rebel fighters. The young man, after enrolling in Channel, donated the money to humanitarian charities. “These are people who have been seduced by the messaging. It’s very strong, very passionate. It appears to come from a place of concern. And for these people there are no other voices – it’s them against us and we must stick together,” Samuel explains.

Another Channel mentor, **who asked to not be identified, explained that sometimes, the troubled youths who enroll in Channel just need to find ways of contributing constructively in society.** “What we find is that often between the ages of 14 and 18 the person has come across peer pressure or an extremist group, but then they’ve realized they need to get on to university or get a job. Once they’ve shown they’ve committed to that then it’s deemed they are no longer a risk. In other cases the NHS (National Health Service) will take over if they’ve got deeper emotional or psychological issues that need to be addressed.”

► **Read more on the Channel Project at:**

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/118194/channel-guidance.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118194/channel-guidance.pdf)

**EDITOR’S COMMENT:** There are two components of the problem: the "person" and the "environment". How can we modify the person the moment that the environment (both local and international) remains stable? Why do we believe that when the "new" person will continue to live in the "old" environment will not relapse? Perhaps if the new person is given a "new" environment then programs like Channel might work. If not then very soon the new person will realize that life is not as described during reformation and he/she will follow the river he/she is living in. Although it sounds utopic it might be easier to change the environment than to change mindsets and actual people.



## Why do women in West turn to Islamic State? For the same reasons as men

By Farhaan Wali

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150206-why-do-women-in-west-turn-to-islamic-state-for-the-same-reasons-as-men>

**What makes someone want to travel to some of the most dangerous places on earth to fight alongside terrorists?** It's a question we've been asking about young people for more than a decade. But the rise of the Islamic State (IS) in Syria and Iraq has seen the onset of a particular phenomenon – more and more young women are now leaving the West to support the group in its controlled territories.

Since the Islamic State's campaign began, it is estimated that 3,000 people have migrated from the West to join the cause — **550 of them women.**

On the face of it, IS and its "caliphate" seems to be a male-dominated environment. Until now, it has not been clear how IS makes room for female activists. But a document obtained by anti-extremist think tank the **Quilliam Foundation**, which purports to be a guide for jihadist brides, has shed light on the role of women under IS. It states:

The role of women is inherently "sedentary," and that her responsibilities lie first and foremost in the house, except in a handful of narrowly defined circumstances. This role begins at the point of marriage which, it is declared, can be as young as nine years old.

So why do Western women choose this restricted life? A recent report from the Institute for Strategic Dialogue has examined the role of female migrants in IS for the first time. This examination of these clandestine activists provides insight into the possible threat migrating female activists may pose to the West — and why they go in the first place.

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### The will of Allah

It appears that religious revivalist tendencies inspire female activists, who ultimately seek to embrace "a new vision for society." In most cases, female migrants felt their identity and purpose had been empowered by preserving the notion of "true Islam." The challenging process of turning away from their previous lives is mitigated by their strong idealistic world-view. Thus, **as one female activist indicates, joining IS was the practical manifestation of "the will of Allah."**

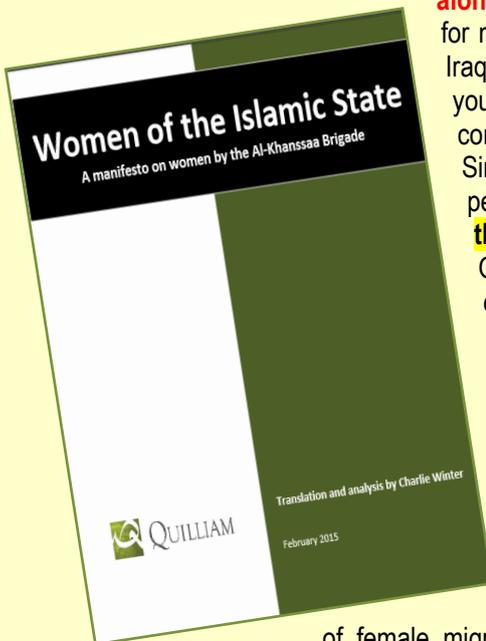
These women often hold disturbing opinions that justify violence against the West. The women espouse a radical worldview drawn from Islamist ideology. In particular, the notion of "*Al-wala wal-bara*" (loyalty and disavowal) has been firmly directed and applied to the non-believer and encourages absolute disassociation with the disbeliever. This ideal gives rise to a worldview that allows the activist to de-humanize all non-Muslims. This de-humanizing process provides the ideological pathway for extreme acts of violence.

Online recruitment is a particular problem. Female activists are turning to social media to post glorifying tales of life under IS authority. This could act as a lightning rod for disaffected young Muslims across the Western world.

All this comes before the threat posed by dormant returnees. Those who have returned home often exemplify a deeper hatred of the West, especially after those who have experienced the death of a husband in the wake of drone attacks. This fragmented state of being can trigger potential terror threats within the host country, and thus the report strongly recommends the need to track and monitor those who seek to return home.

### Life under IS

The report also systematically documents the practical acts currently performed by female migrants. Unmarried women stay in a group hostel provided by IS, and married women who travel with their husbands are given a home.





Women do not fight for Islamic State, performing instead a range of domestic duties once they have settled in controlled regions. One migrant posted a picture of a cheesecake she had made with a friend to Twitter. The report states:

The scene in this picture, however, is not a typical household situation, as there is a grenade positioned next to the cake.

#### Target the recruiters

Many of the reasons given by female migrants to IS territories are the same as those espoused by their male peers. As part of my research, I am currently interviewing young male Islamists who are looking to travel to IS controlled territories. These are principally young, second-generation Muslims, who feel alienated from British society.

**They tell me their ideological motivation is two-fold:** to live under the banner of “true Islam” and to participate in the global jihad. These young men have been radicalized by a selective ideology, which draws upon an

alarmist worldview (for example that Islam and Muslims are under threat). This promotes a rapid response, as the threat posed is perceived as immediate. Salafi-jihadist groups in the U.K. have been extremely effective at turning this rhetoric into a significant operation.

Authorities must target these Islamist groups acting as a recruitment base for both men and women migrating to IS territories. A counter-narrative should be conveyed to those young Muslims who feel disassociated with British society. In the case of young women, the report identifies families as playing a key role in persuading would-be migrants to stay in the West, or using practical measures such as withholding money or passports to prevent their daughters from leaving.

At the organizational level, the individuals who radicalize young people should be targeted. This can be done using banning and control orders for known radicals. The fight must also be taken to social media, which is acting as a new frontier for the Islamic State’s campaign of terror.

► Read the Quilliam Foundation study at:

<http://www.quilliamfoundation.org/wp/wp-content/uploads/publications/free/women-of-the-islamic-state3.pdf>

*Farhaan Wali is Lecturer in Religious Studies at Bangor University.*

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## Women & Islamic State ISIS releases an instructional manual for women in ISIS-controlled areas

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150206-isis-releases-an-instructional-manual-for-women-in-isiscontrolled-areas>

Feb 06 – An all-female militia set up by the Islamic State (ISIS) has published a **10,000-word manifesto on how women in Islam should live according to the group’s interpretation of the Quran**. Girls are told to marry at the age of nine, women are banned from going to work, and both must remain indoors and leave the house only in exceptional circumstances. “It is considered legitimate for a girl to be married at the age of nine. Most pure girls will be married by 16 or 17, while they are still young and active. Young men will not be more than 20 years old in those glorious generations,” the document reads.

The *Guardian* reports that the document, *Women of the Islamic State: Manifesto and Case Study*, was released in Arabic last month on a jihadi forum. Believed to be written by the

media wing of ISIS’s al-Khanssaa Brigade, it has been translated into English by Charlie Winter, a researcher on jihadism in Syria and Iraq at the London-based counterterrorism think tank Quilliam Foundation. The treatise notes that it has not been sanctioned by “the state” — meaning ISIS or its leadership, but it will help “clarify the role of Muslim women and the life which is desired for them” and “to clarify the realities of life and the hallowed existence of women in the Islamic State.”

According to the document, from ages seven to nine, girls will learn three lessons: *fiqh* (understanding) and religion, Quranic Arabic (written and read), and science (accounting and natural sciences). From age ten to twelve, girls will undergo more



religious studies, learn about the position of women, and the rulings of marriage and divorce. Domestic skills including textiles, knitting, and basic cooking will also be taught. Ages thirteen to fifteen will encompass lessons



minded beliefs instead of religion.” “The model preferred by infidels in the west failed the minute that women were ‘liberated’ from their cell in the house,” it reads. The ideal Islamic community should not focus on uncovering the “secrets of nature and reaching the peaks of architectural sophistication,” it should instead concentrate on the implementation of sharia law and the spreading of Islam.”

Islamic State jihadist announces his marriage to terrified 7-year-old in conquered city in Syria

In a section entitled, “How the soldiers of Iblis (the devil) keep women from paradise,” the document denounces

on motherhood and Islamic history, focusing less on science.

In his analysis, Winter says the document, written in Arabic, is aimed at recruiting women living in the Gulf. The manifesto insists that women in Saudi Arabia have suffered “barbarism and savagery,” and should migrate to ISIS strongholds.

“In a jihadist perversion of feminism, then, the importance of women is championed. She is deemed to play a central role,” Winter says. “However, this is only inasmuch as the jihadist ideology permits her. She may be important, but she faces myriad restrictions and an imposed piety that is punishable by hudud (fixed) punishments.”

The manifesto goes on to claim that the Western model for women has failed, corrupting them with ideas and “shoddy-

materialism and states that the “fundamental function” of a woman is to be at home with her family, although women may leave home to serve their community, but only in exceptional circumstances, such as to wage jihad when men are unavailable, and to study religion. Female doctors and teachers are permitted to leave home, but “must keep strictly to sharia guidelines.”

The treatise further explains that the group supports educating women, as long as they do not work. “Yes, we say: ‘Stay in your houses,’ but this does not mean, in any way, that we support illiteracy, backwardness or ignorance,” it reads. “Rather, we just support the distinction between working — that which involves a woman leaving the house — and studying, as it was ordained she should do.”

### Paris restricts action movie filming after terrorist attacks

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/05/paris-restrict-action-movie-police-chase-real>

Fearing that actors could be mistaken for police, and chase scenes mistaken for the real thing, Paris is restricting filming of action movies in the city.

Filming outside scenes with police, army or security services was quietly banned after the recent attacks in the French capital that left 20 dead, including three gunmen.

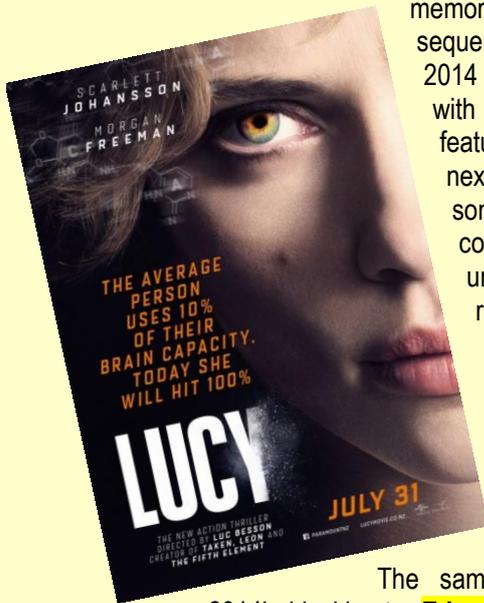
“There’s a problem with these action-type scenes, as the

actors in uniform could be targets for terrorists,” said Sylvie Barnaud, the police official who grants outside filming permission in Paris. “Also, the actors could pose confusion for the general public – during this highly sensitive period.”

She did not know how long the ban could last, but tensions remain high in Paris, with armed police and soldiers still posted outside sensitive sites, including synagogues, media offices and big shopping areas.



Paris has long been a favoured filming location, having staged some of cinema's most memorable high-octane sequences. Luc Besson's 2014 box-office hit **Lucy** with Scarlett Johansson features a police chase next to the Louvre – something that couldn't happen under the new rules.



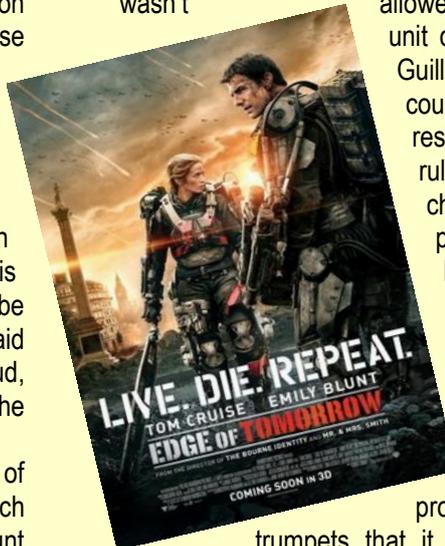
“Had Luc Besson wanted to film this now, it would be impossible,” said William Trillaud, set fixer for the movie.

The same may be true of 2014's blockbuster **Edge of Tomorrow**, which was partly filmed in Paris, starring Emily Blunt and Tom Cruise. Further back in film history, Matt Damon's Mini Cooper chase in the Bourne Identity would have fallen foul of the new regulations, and the Ronin gun battle at the gilded Pont Alexandre III would have been equally complicated.

Several productions have already been disrupted – including one called Flics Tout Simplement (Simply Cops), which was to have

a scene with a police officer outside a school. Scenes with religious sites or schools, both protected under the emergency security plans, are also banned.

“Yes, we were meant to film this scene. But it wasn't



allowed,” said the film unit director, Stéphane Guillet.

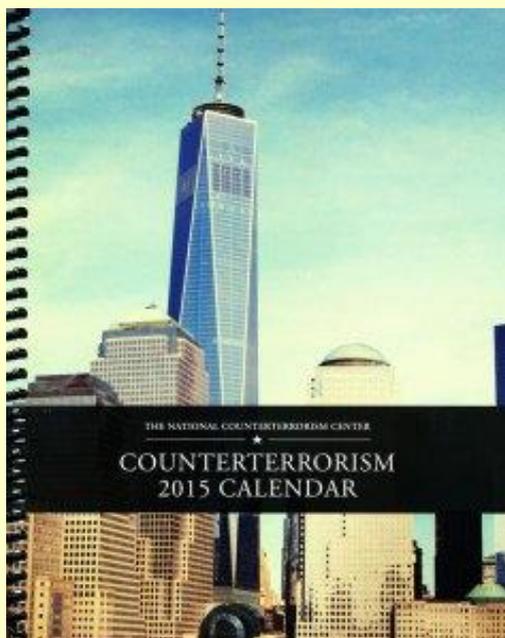
“Of course, we have to respect the new rules, and we changed the production plan.”

Paris is holding its annual Film Set Fair this week, hoping that it will continue to attract big

productions – and trumpets that it gave the green light to 1,159 film productions in the capital last year alone. “It could have an impact on the big American productions ... It's not the right moment to do it,” said Agnès Nageotte of the Cinema Mission of the city of Paris.

“Even if Steven Spielberg wanted to film a big scene with police and a shootout in the streets in January I'm sure it would not have got made.”

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Wise decision! In modern times life copy movies and vice versa. Movie makers could be included in security defense groups since in many occasions they foresee things that common analysts are reluctant to think of!



## 2015 Counterterrorism Calendar Now Available

Source: <http://govbooktalk.gpo.gov/2015/01/14/2015-counterterrorism-calendar-now-available/>

The National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC) has released its annual Counterterrorism Calendar for 2015. This year's calendar features a few updates, such as the inclusion of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi and two women.

The goal behind the Counterterrorism Calendar is to educate and inform both professionals—first responders, military, intelligence, law enforcement and other counterterrorism personnel—as well as civilians about the



threats of international terrorism and how to prevent, respond or mitigate these threats against the United States both at home and abroad.

Under the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, the National Counterterrorism Center or NCTC serves as the primary organization in the U.S. government for integrating and analyzing all intelligence possessed or acquired by the U.S. government about international terrorism, including data from U.S. Federal agencies like the CIA, NSA, Defense Intelligence Agency, and the FBI as well as other domestic and international sources.

First published in a spiral-bound daily planner format in 2003, just two years after the World

Counterterrorism Calendar also serves as a tutorial on international terrorism and a gallery of “most wanted” terrorists.

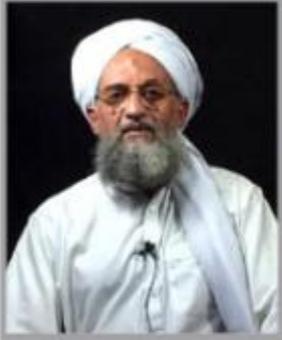
The right-hand page of the planner has the event planner dates along with key historical events of significance to terrorists that might be used to plan future terrorist activities. For example, on January 8, 1998, terrorist Ramzi Ahmed Yousef was sentenced to life plus 240 years for his role in the 1993 World Trade Center bombings.

On the left-hand pages are photos, maps and/or data on terrorists and terrorist organizations around the world, from Africa and the Middle East to Europe and the Americas.

“Terrorism tutorial” information ranges from cultural—details about the Islamic Calendar;

the spelling of Arabic names and terms; lists of Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTOs), and logos used— to technical – information about Chemical-Biological-

Radiological-Nuclear-Explosive (CBRNE) weapons commonly used by terrorists, from suicide bombs to sarin gas, and how to detect and mitigate them. For example, who among us would recognize the terrorist threat from these innocent-looking beans?

<p><b>Ayman Al-Zawahiri</b></p>	
	<p><b>WANTED</b></p> <p>Ayman al-Zawahiri is a physician and the founder of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad. This organization opposes the secular Egyptian Government and seeks its overthrow through violent means. Al-Zawahiri is believed to have served as an advisor and doctor to Usama Bin Ladin. He has been indicted for his alleged role in the 7 August 1998 bombings of the US embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya. The embassy bombings killed 224 civilians and wounded over 5,000 others.</p>
	<p><b>REWARD</b></p> <p><b>Up to \$25 Million Reward</b></p> <p>If you have any information concerning this person, please contact your local FBI office if you are in the United States, or the nearest US Embassy or Consulate.</p> <p>If you prefer to use e-mail, send your information to <a href="mailto:rfj@state.gov">rfj@state.gov</a>.</p> <p>If you prefer to use the telephone, please call 1-800-US REWARDS.</p> <p><a href="http://www.rewardsforjustice.net">www.rewardsforjustice.net</a></p>
<p><b>ALIASES/NAME VARIANTS:</b>                  Abu Muhammad, Abu Fatima, Muhammad Ibrahim, Abu Abdallah, Abu al-Mu'iz, The Doctor, The Teacher, Nur, Ustaz, Abu Mohammed, Abu Mohammed Nur al-Deen, Abdel Muaz, Dr. Ayman al Zawahiri</p>	

Trade Center attacks, the Counterterrorism or CT Calendar from the NCTC is published annually. According to the NCTC, their 2015 Counterterrorism Calendar:

*...provides information on known terrorist groups, individual terrorists, and technical information on topics such as biological and chemical threats. This edition, like others since the Calendar was first published in daily planner format in 2003, contains many features across the full range of issues pertaining to international terrorism: terrorist groups, wanted terrorists, and technical pages on various threat-related topics.*

**Features of the Calendar**

In addition to serving as a desk calendar / event planner, the 160-page 2015

terrorist activities, the reward offered, and how to report information about him.

One of the largest rewards, \$25 Million, is offered for information leading to the capture of Ayman al-Zawahiri, also known as “The Teacher” or “The Doctor” who is a physician and the founder of the Egyptian Islamic Jihad. According to the CT Calendar:

*“This organization opposes the secular Egyptian Government and seeks its overthrow through violent means. Al-Zawahiri is believed to have served as an advisor and doctor to Usama Bin Ladin. He has been indicted for his alleged role in the August 7, 1998, bombings of the US embassies in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, and Nairobi, Kenya. The embassy bombings killed 224*



civilians and wounded over 5,000 others.”

**Civilian Involvement**

Finally, the NCTC carries on the civilian involvement tradition by including instructions for citizens of the U.S. and other countries on

resolves acts of international terrorism against US persons or property worldwide.

On the last page is a Bomb Threat Call Procedures form with valuable details of questions to ask and information to note about the caller, such as his or her voice (accent, age, tone, language) and background sounds. Did you note if the caller was clearing his throat or had an accent? Were there sounds of machinery in the background? What kind? Any and all details could help law enforcement.

Caller's Voice		Background Sounds		Threat Language
Calm	Nasal	Voices	Static	Well Spoken (Educated)
Angry	Stutter	Music	Local	Foul
Excited	Lisp	Motor	Booth	Irrational
Slow	Raspy	Clear	Other	Message Read by Threat Maker
Rapid	Deep	Crockery		Taped
Soft	Ragged	Street Noises		Incoherent
Loud	Clearing Throat	Office Machinery		
Laughter	Deep Breathing	Factory Machinery		
Crying	Cracking Voice	Animal Noises		
Normal	Disguised	Long Distance		
Distinct	Accent	House Noises		
Slurred	Whispered	PA System		

Table from the Bomb Threat Call Procedures form. Source: Page 160 of the 2015 Counterterrorism Calendar.

**Forewarned is Forearmed**

Like the tradition of the best Government civilian campaigns since the founding of the Nation, the National Counterterrorism Center's annual Counterterrorism Calendar is simultaneously meant to alert and inform us, making both civilians and professionals alike aware of the very real dangers around us and educating us on what—and whom—to look for.

how they can help fight terrorism. Pages on “Indicators of False Travel Documents” and how U.S. residents can report suspicions are provided. Additionally, the Rewards for Justice (RFJ) Program is described in detail, wherein the U.S. Secretary of State may offer rewards for information that prevents or favorably

**There's No Such Thing as 'Radical Islam.' There Are Only Terrorists Who Are Muslim**

By Dean Obeidallah

Source: <http://www.thedailybeast.com/articles/2015/02/06/there-s-no-such-thing-as-radical-islam-there-are-only-terrorists-who-are-muslim.html>

**How many Muslims does ISIS have to slaughter before people will stop calling the group “Islamic” anything? Seriously, can someone please tell me the number of innocent Muslim men, women, and children who have to die at the hands of ISIS before people will realize that ISIS is truly unIslamic and arguably anti-Islamic?**

On Tuesday, we saw more of ISIS's barbaric brutality on display with the release of the video depicting its killing of Jordanian Muslim fighter pilot Muath al-Kasasbeh. He was flying sorties as part of the U.S.-organized coalition to destroy ISIS.

The way he was killed sets a new low in depravity. ISIS militants first chained Kasasbeh in a cage and then poured flammable fluids into his cell. With Kasasbeh watching, an ISIS militant lit the fluid on fire. Then while Kasasbeh was burning to death, they dropped

debris on him, like brick masonry. Finally they drove a bulldozer over him several times.

What makes the killing of this man so noteworthy is not just the viciousness of his execution, but that it actually received national U.S. media coverage. We rarely see our media cover the Muslims killed by ISIS or al Qaeda. I often wonder, is it because some in the media feel that Muslims lives don't matter? Or is it because they sense that collectively, most (though not all) Americans could care less about it when non-Americans are killed, so that translates into low ratings for these types of stories?

To be honest, how many have heard about the details of ISIS slaughtering of Muslims? In 2014 in Iraq alone, can you guess how many Muslims civilians—not fighters, civilians—ISIS killed? At least



4,325. ISIS is murdering an average 12 Muslim civilian men, women, and children every single day.

And these killings are not “collateral damage” deaths. Per a United Nations report released last September, ISIS targeted Muslims, both Sunnis and Shias, who refused to submit to it. We are talking a Sunni leader from the Salah ad Din province of Iraq beheaded in August for refusing to swear allegiance to ISIS. Do you recall U.S. media wall-to-wall coverage of that beheading, like when Westerners were beheaded?

Three Sunni nurses were executed in Mosul for refusing to treat ISIS fighters. A Sunni imam in eastern Baquba was killed for simply denouncing ISIS.

And in neighboring Syria, per the London-based Syrian Human Rights Committee, in December 2014 alone, ISIS killed at least 49 civilians, executing almost all in front of their families.

Why do these facts matter? Because I think it makes it clear to any reasonable person that ISIS is not about the tenets of Islam. Their religion is power.

Those aren't just my words. In September, more than 120 Islamic scholars and clerics wrote a letter to ISIS in both English and Arabic denouncing ISIS and its invoking of Islam to justify its horrific actions. They even explained in great detail how ISIS is violating the Quran and teachings of the Prophet Muhammad, concluding that ISIS is truly unIslamic.

Yet these words don't move many on the right in America, who continue to argue in essence:

If a Muslim yells “Allahu Akbar” after committing any action, that absolutely means that their conduct is based on the faith. That is beyond simplistic—it's idiotic.

And nearly as ludicrous is the claim by people like Republican Sen. Kelly Ayotte, who stated on Fox News on Sunday that we need to call it “radical Islam” because we “have to define our enemy.”

Look, there's no such thing as “radical Islam.” There is only one Islam. But there are radical Muslims. And there are Muslims who engage in terrorist acts. They are called terrorists. That is the proper way to describe them.

That is exactly what White House Press secretary Josh Earnest stated a few weeks ago when refusing to use the term “radical Islam” to describe al Qaeda or ISIS. As Earnest noted, it's about “accuracy,” noting correctly that “these terrorists are individuals who would like to cloak themselves in the veil of a particular religion.”

Just read the ISIS magazine and you will see how they desperately seek to frame its battle with the United States as an “American crusade against Islam.” That is why when Sen. Lindsey Graham recently called the fight with al Qaeda a “religious war,” I can only imagine these terrorists were high-fiving each other because he was parroting their words.

Using the word Islam in any way to describe ISIS or al Qaeda, or framing our fight as a religious war, is exactly what they want. It helps them recruit and raise funds. Let's call ISIS—as well as al Qaeda—what they are. They are terrorists with a political agenda who are using the Islamic faith, not acting in accordance with it. That is our enemy. Now let's defeat them.

**Look, there's no such thing as “radical Islam.” There is only one Islam. But there are radical Muslims. And there are Muslims who engage in terrorist acts. They are called terrorists.**

*Dean Obeidallah, a former lawyer turned political comedian and writer, is the host of The Dean Obeidallah show on SiriusXM radio. He co-directed the comedy documentary The Muslims Are Coming!*

## Can French Troops Protect 'Sensitive Sites' from Next Terror Attack?

By Daniel Pipes

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5019/french-soldiers-terror-attack>

*Originally published under the title, “3 French Soldiers, 3 Sitting Ducks.”*

Another Islamist immigrant from Mali named Coulibaly has attacked another Jewish institution in France. The first one, Amedy Coulibaly, murdered four Jews at a kosher

store in Paris on Jan. 9; this second one injured three soldiers yesterday as they protected a Jewish community center in Nice.



Police say Moussa Coulibaly, about 30 years old, with a record of theft and violence, and apparently not related to Amedy, pulled a knife

go to them, who remain as vulnerable as ever.

In short, the soldiers are sitting ducks whose deployment does little to protect the Jewish community or solve the larger problem of Islamist violence. But it does offer another instance of emotionally satisfying "security theater" which temporarily gives everyone a constructive sense of doing *something*. A real solution will require much deeper and longer-range steps that concern national identity,

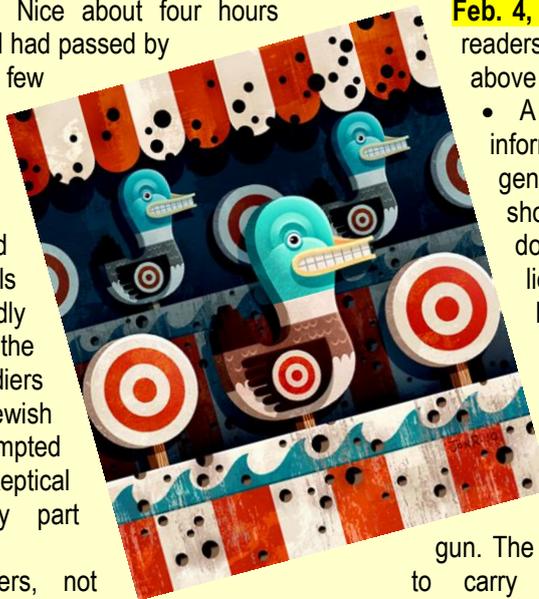


about 8 inches long out of a bag, injuring one soldier in the chin, one in the cheek, and one in the forearm.

immigration policy, integration efforts, and effective policing.

Coincidentally, I left Nice about four hours before this attack and had passed by that Jewish center a few days earlier, in the course of a tour of Muslim-majority areas in ten cities across France and Belgium. Those travels brought me repeatedly in proximity to the heavily armed soldiers who protect Jewish institutions and prompted several skeptical conclusions on my part about their presence:

- They are soldiers, not police, and so not trained to be alert to street problems.
- They tend to get distracted by their smartphones or pretty girls passing by.
- They clutch their assault rifles across their bodies, which leaves them vulnerable to someone driving by and shooting at them.
- As confirmed by today's attack, the ostensible protection they offer actually provokes Islamists and other antisemites.
- They are only posted temporarily to the Jewish institutions in the aftermath of the Hyper Cacher attack a month ago and before long will leave.
- They protect only the institutions themselves, not the people who come and



**Feb. 4, 2015 addendum:** A number of readers added valuable insights to the above analysis:

- A former French navy officer informs me that "If you asked a general why the soldiers did not shoot the attacker, he would dodge the question as he cannot lie but they could not shoot because the guns you see strapped on these soldiers has an empty magazine. It has no bullets! It's insane! Certain officers have a loaded magazine separately in a pouch, but not inserted in the gun. The only military personnel allowed to carry loaded weapons are the gendarmerie. All others, including soldiers, infantry, and even commandos are not allowed to carry loaded weapons. Because this is ridiculous, the government hides it."
- One reader wonders, even if the soldiers are armed, how prepared they are to shoot: Is the assault rifle round chambered or do they need to chamber a round first? Is the weapon on safe, requiring them to take the weapon off safe before they fire? Is the rifle set on auto fire or on semi-auto?
- William Mayer of PipeLineNews.com asks "why these soldiers apparently had little or no expertise in open hand combat. Disarming an



opponent carrying a knife is rudimentary and taught (in the US) in boot camp. Even without weapons, three soldiers should have been able to handle a street thug armed with just a butcher knife." He noted on his website yesterday that "If the best and brightest of the country's anti-terror forces are incapable of stopping a simple assault by a man with a knife, there is little to prevent further attacks by Islamic fanatics. As a matter of fact the message of weakness being sent is one of provocation not steadfastness."

In addition, additional news has come out about Moussa Coulibaly, who is from Mantes-la-Jolie, roughly 30 miles west of Paris, and had been sentenced six times between 2003 and 2012 for crimes including theft, drug use, and verbally assaulting public officials; much of

it reveals the ineptitude of the French security services:

- A sports club reported him to the police after he showed signs of "aggressive proselytizing." This included behaving coldly toward women and reproaching a man for showering naked. But the police did not put him under surveillance.
- He bought a one-way ticket to Turkey in early January. This, his behavior, and issues with his passport prompted an employee to notify Air France, which called the police. Nonetheless he was allowed to go to Turkey.
- French intelligence services asked the Turkish authorities to deport him immediately back to France, where on Jan. 28 he was questioned by counterterrorism officers, then released just days before the attack.

*Mr. Daniel Pipes is president of the Middle East Forum.*

## Book Review - Islamabad's Military Myopia

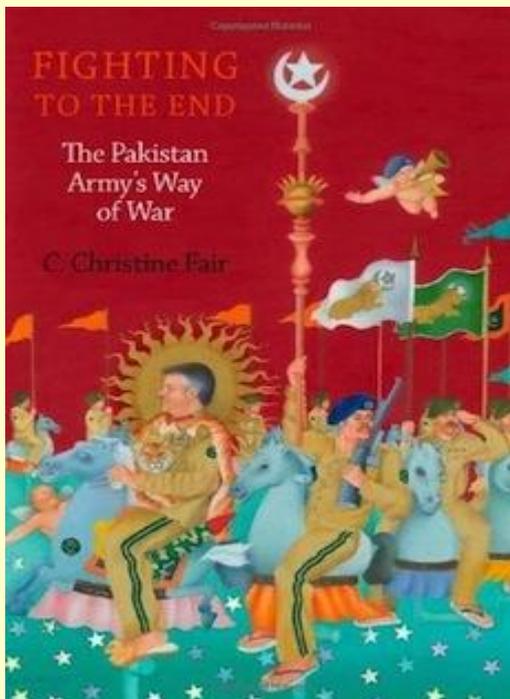
By Aaron Mannes

C. Christine Fair, *Fighting to the End: The Pakistan Army's Way of War* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2014), 368pp.

Source: <http://terrorwonk.blogspot.in/2015/02/islamabads-military-myopia-review-of-cc.html?m=1>

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Beset by violent ethnic and sectarian tensions



(including a radical Islamist rebellion), increasing environmental degradation, and severe economic crises, nuclear-armed

Pakistan is nothing short of an international security nightmare. Yet, despite this plethora of difficulties, the real authority in the state, the Pakistani Army, does little to ameliorate these challenges and instead focuses its efforts on an all-consuming, Sisyphean strategic rivalry with its far more powerful neighbor India.

Concerned about Pakistan's future, the United States and its allies have sought to induce the Pakistani military to re-focus its effort by offering assistance with the country's legitimate security needs. But, in her thorough and compelling study of the Pakistani army's strategic culture, *Fighting to the End: The Pakistan Army's Way of War*, C. Christine Fair explains that such efforts are ultimately fruitless because Pakistan is what George Washington University professor Charles Glaser calls a "greedy state" that is "fundamentally dissatisfied with the status quo."

Fair, a professor at Georgetown University's Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service and a seasoned observer of South Asian politics, divines Pakistan's





strategic culture, the “lens through which the Pakistani army understands its security environment and its role,” by studying the nation’s defense literature, supplemented by the memoirs of top officers, as well as her own extensive fieldwork in Pakistan. In the process, she deflates a number of myths about Pakistani history—myths which Pakistan itself has propagated to advance its cause.

**The central question surrounding Pakistan’s strategic culture is why its military continues to make security decisions that result in failures.**

Since the state’s founding in 1947-48, Pakistan has initiated a series of wars against India, all of which have left it in a weaker position than before the start of hostilities. It has also engaged in other policies, such as supporting *jihadist* groups against India that have, in many cases, ended up rebounding to its detriment. The siphoning of the nation’s wealth for a fruitless arms race with India, meanwhile, has impoverished the Pakistani people and left the state with inadequate institutions or infrastructure. Pakistan’s nuclear program and its support for terrorist groups has also engendered considerable blowback, bringing sanctions down on the state—a dangerous situation for a nation so dependent on foreign aid and IMF bailouts.

**Finally, there is little prospect for any improvement in Pakistan’s strategic situation.** India, which is far larger than Pakistan, has also outpaced Pakistan economically, enabling extensive qualitative military improvements to a military that already possesses a significant quantitative advantage. At the same time, India’s rise as a market and global power allows it to forge important new alliances, particularly with the United States and Israel, that give it greater access to military hardware and training, economic opportunities, and an improved diplomatic position internationally.

Rationally, Pakistan should reach an accommodation with India before its situation deteriorates further, in order to refocus resources on the difficult task of repairing its decrepit physical and social infrastructure. But, as Fair shows, Pakistan simply cannot take this path because opposing India’s rise—as opposed to defending Pakistan—is at the core

of Pakistan’s strategic culture. The loss of the ability to act against India is tantamount to surrender.

Pakistan’s fixation with India is inextricably tied to the founding of the nation itself. When the British Raj was partitioned into Hindu India and Muslim Pakistan (a process that was accompanied by communal violence that took hundreds of thousands of lives and created over 10 million refugees), Pakistan felt it was cheated of Muslim-majority territories such as Jammu and Kashmir, as well as Muslim-ruled princely states such as Hyderabad. Pakistan initially consisted of two parts, East Pakistan (now Bangladesh) and West Pakistan, which were separated from each other by India, leaving the new state, in the words of its founder and first president Mohammed Ali Jinnah, “moth-eaten and truncated.” Critically, Pakistan did not receive its share of military stores and assets, placing it at a fundamental disadvantage and giving rise to the notion that Hindu India wanted Muslim Pakistan to fail.

Pakistan, established as the nation for India’s Muslims, embraced Islam as an ideology to unify its multiple ethnicities. Generally, Pakistan’s turn toward Islamism is blamed on General Zia, who served as the country’s military dictator during the 1980s. But Fair points out that the first Pakistani armed forces chief (and later President) General Ayub, while personally secular, exploited Islam to unite the nation and motivate the army. So the situation remains; believing that without a commitment to this ideology the state will fail, Pakistan’s army has been the major engine in the nation’s embrace of Islamism. The commitment to an Islamic ideology dovetails neatly with the widespread belief that India continues to seek Pakistan’s demise.

This belief has by now become canon. Pakistan’s military literature extolling Islam is accompanied by extensive descriptions of Indian Hindus as cowardly and scheming. The classic Pakistani Army text entitled *India: A Study in Profile* discusses the “Hindu psyche” and, according to Fair, is replete with “patently Orientalist, if



not outright racist, concepts.” A continuing theme in Pakistani military literature is that Hindus are weak and unmotivated to fight, as opposed to Pakistani soldiers who, infused with Islamic instruction, can prevail even against India’s numerical superiority. At the same time, Hindu India is striving to become the regional hegemon and a global power, and only Pakistan can prevent its ascension.

Pakistani military literature likewise blames Pakistan’s endemic internal violence on Hindu conspiracies. There is an irony to this particular accusation, as Pakistan has long sponsored terrorism and proxy violence in India. The traditional narrative holds that Pakistan first began using Islamist proxies in collaboration with the U.S. against the Soviets in Afghanistan. But in fact, after reviewing decades of Pakistani military literature, Fair finds tremendous interest in guerrilla war, infiltration and the use of non-state actors from the very foundation of the Pakistani state. Indeed, the 1947 war with India was sparked when Pakistan sent Pashtun tribal militias into Jammu and Kashmir to seize control of those territories. In much the same way, Pakistan used tribal militia proxies in Afghanistan in the 1950s, and the 1965 war with India started when Pakistan sent *mujahideen* into Jammu and Kashmir.

Nuclear weapons have allowed Pakistan to continue and expand its risky strategies to counter India, certain that India will limit its retaliation to avoid a potential nuclear crisis. This was highlighted in the 2002 standoff, when, after Pakistani terrorists attacked India’s parliament, India mobilized its forces but ultimately found itself with limited options, knowing the conflict could become nuclear. Pakistan’s nuclear weapons also guarantee international attention, as foreign powers will intervene and attempt to resolve a crisis rather than allow war to break out and potentially become nuclear. Fair conducts a quantitative study and determines that, under its nuclear umbrella, Pakistan has been far more likely to engage in risky behavior such as provoking crises with India. In the face of Pakistan’s deteriorating position, nuclear weapons, perhaps more than any other factor, have allowed Pakistan to continue its regional rivalry. In her penultimate chapter, Fair examines possibilities for change in Pakistan’s strategic culture. Her conclusions are not encouraging. The military is an unlikely source for reform,

especially because its ideological commitment to countering India gives the military priority in claims on the state’s resources. Fair touches on this important point, and other analysts—such as Ayesha Siddiqi in her book *Military Inc.: Inside Pakistan’s Military Economy*—have shown how military officers have materially benefited from their *de facto* (and sometimes *de jure*) control of the state.

Other sources, both within and without Pakistan, are equally unlikely to foster needed change. While democratic governance has expanded since General Pervez Musharraf stepped down as president in 2008, the army has successfully transmitted its strategic culture to Pakistani civil society. A strong Pakistani civilian government may be willing to seek better relations with India, but vast and influential segments of Pakistani society (if not an outright majority of it) today embrace the military’s worldview. Conspiracy theories involving India, the United States, and Israel are regular features in Pakistan’s media. Fair notes that Pakistani civil society includes many illiberal elements. For example, the lawyers’ movement, which led the national protests that brought down Musharraf, is closely linked to a number of radical Islamist parties and supported Pakistan’s monstrous blasphemy laws.

The international community has limited tools to change Pakistan’s strategic culture. If the 1971 defeat by India (in which Pakistan lost half of the country) was insufficient to persuade Pakistan’s generals to pursue a different course, it is difficult to imagine a military defeat that could. The United States attempted to invest in Pakistani institutions with the 2009 Kerry-Lugar-Berman congressional aid package, but this effort has been resisted at every point by the Pakistani military.

**In her final chapter,** Fair concludes that Pakistan is a pure “greedy state” seeking fundamental change to the international order. Past policies toward Pakistan have been attempts to address the country’s legitimate security needs. But, Fair writes, “If Pakistan is a purely greedy state, driven by ideological motives, then appeasement is in fact the more dangerous course of policy prescription.” Fair calls for “sober realism” and argues that “the United States and its partners should seriously consider what it means to contain



the threats that emanate from Pakistan...” This is the only element missing from an impressive work. Having proposed a containment strategy of Pakistan, a discussion of policy options would be welcome. To be sure, such an approach will not be easy. The available tools have consequences. Financial sanctions will harm the already impoverished

Pakistani masses. Military options against a nuclear-armed state are limited. As a prominent Muslim nation, isolating Pakistan diplomatically may prove difficult. Unfortunately, Fair has convincingly demonstrated that the Pakistani military has chosen a course that leaves the United States and its allies no other options.

*Dr. Aaron Mannes is a researcher at the University of Maryland Laboratory for Computational Cultural Dynamics and co-author of two books on South Asian terrorism.*

## We Searched for Two Key Phrases in Obama’s 2015 National Security Strategy — and Found **Zero** Results

By Jason Howerton

Source: <http://www.theblaze.com/stories/2015/02/08/terms-radical-islam-islamic-extremism-entirely-absent-in-obamas-2015-national-security-strategy/>

Feb 08 – **Earlier this month, the White House released its official “2015 National Security Strategy,”** outlining how the United States can “safeguard our interests against the risks of an insecure world.” Throughout the entire 29-page document, the terms “radical Islam” and “Islamic extremism” both appear **zero times**, while “Islam” is mentioned just one time, according to a word search conducted by TheBlaze.

The report refers to the administration’s involvement in a “global campaign to degrade and ultimately defeat the Islamic State,” but it does not examine the radical Islamic ideology that fuels the group and other like-minded terrorists around the world. The document references Al Qaeda and includes several references to “terrorism,” but doesn’t elaborate any further about which types of terrorism pose the biggest threat.

**The only reference to Islam in the national security strategy reads: “We reject the lie that America and its allies are at war with Islam.”**

Even when referring to radical Islamist terror groups like Al Qaeda and the Islamic State, the report labels them as “globally oriented groups.” Further, members of the groups are referred to as “foreign terrorist fighters” or “violent extremists.”

Read more from Obama’s National Security Strategy:

*The threat of catastrophic attacks against our homeland by terrorists has diminished but still persists. An array of terrorist threats has gained traction in areas of*

*instability, limited opportunity, and broken governance. Our adversaries are not confined to a distinct country or region. Instead, they range from South Asia through the Middle East and into Africa. They include globally oriented groups like al-Qa’ida and its affiliates, as well as a growing number of regionally focused and globally connected groups—many with an al-Qa’ida pedigree like ISIL, which could pose a threat to the homeland.*

*We have drawn from the experience of the last decade and put in place substantial changes to our efforts to combat terrorism, while preserving and strengthening important tools that have been developed since 9/11. Specifically, we shifted away from a model of fighting costly, large-scale ground wars in Iraq and Afghanistan in which the United States—particularly our military—bore an enormous burden. Instead, we are now pursuing a more sustainable approach that prioritizes targeted counterterrorism operations, collective action with responsible partners, and increased efforts to prevent the growth of violent extremism and radicalization that drives increased threats. Our leadership will remain essential to disrupting the unprecedented flow of foreign terrorist fighters to and from conflict zones. We will work to address the underlying conditions that can help foster violent extremism such as poverty, inequality, and*



*repression. This means supporting alternatives to extremist messaging and greater economic opportunities for women and disaffected youth. We will help build the capacity of the most vulnerable states and communities to defeat terrorists locally. Working with the Congress, we will train and equip local partners and provide operational support to gain ground against terrorist groups. This will include efforts to better fuse and share information and technology as well as to support more inclusive and accountable governance.*

Obama has been criticized by people on the left and right over his administration's apparent

unwillingness to acknowledge the threat of radical Islam — or even say the words out loud. Meanwhile, the Islamic State has continued to carry out barbaric acts across the Middle East, allegedly murdering men, women and children indiscriminately in its quest to conquer new territories.

That's not to say the group isn't getting any pushback.

After publishing a video of terrorists burning a Jordanian pilot to death in a cage, the Islamic State was reportedly pummeled by 56 airstrikes launched by Jordan on Sunday.

The country's air force chief, Gen. Mansour al-Jabour, told reporters that the aggressive offensive is only the "beginning."

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## SAS trains snipers to avoid kidnap by jihadis in UK..after MoD blows their cover in series of security blunders

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2944151/SAS-trains-snipers-avoid-kidnap-jihadis-UK-MoD-blows-cover-series-security-blunders.html>

Elite Army snipers are receiving security training from the SAS amid fears that they and their families will be targeted by Islamic terrorists following a series of blunders.

**Defence chiefs published online and in official reports the names and photographs of sharpshooters – a move the snipers say could endanger their lives.**

At least 50 troops, including those belonging to elite Parachute Regiment and Royal Marine units, and some who have since left the Army, have attended briefings as concerns increase for their safety.

On the courses at SAS headquarters in Hereford, the snipers are being advised how to escape and evade capture if jihadis strike at their homes or when they are going about their everyday lives.

They are also warned not to carry military identification, remove their names from the

electoral roll and to report suspicious activity to police.

The courses include briefings on cyber-security, with the snipers being shown how to thwart attempts to hack into their mobile phones, email and Facebook pages.

The extraordinary measures had to be brought in after the Ministry of Defence breached rules that state that members of Britain's Special Forces and snipers should never be identified.

The rules must be strictly observed because jihadis consider snipers to be high-value targets. Their specialist role and devastating impact on the battlefield have been popularised in the Oscar-nominated film American

Sniper, starring Bradley Cooper as US Navy Seal Chris Kyle, who was credited with 160 confirmed kills in Iraq.



Last night, a former British Army sniper described the horrifying moment when he found an Army report on the internet which described how he had shot dead a Taliban fighter in Helmand province, southern Afghanistan, at a range of more than 1,000 yards.

He said: 'Since then I've lived every day with the fear that I or my family members will be targeted. I can never feel entirely safe in this country after coming back from the war zone and being identified in that report.

'It is especially sickening as while I was still serving in Afghanistan, I gave my commanders explicit instructions that I didn't want to be identified or put up for any sort of

recognition when we came home.

'It was a stupid mistake on their part. I only found out when a friend pointed it out. Naturally people are concerned for me, and as snipers we're aware of the threats to us.'

The sniper has taken drastic measures to protect himself and his relatives, including varying his routes to and from local shops and keeping a 'crash-out bag' – a rucksack containing items he would need to evade capture by Muslim extremists.

The man, whose experiences on the front line left him suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder, genuinely fears he is a target.

He added: 'I'm careful who I discuss my Army life with, while giving out my phone number or my home address is a complete no-no. And when I'm going somewhere for the first time, I need to work out how I could get out of there fast and without being tailed.

'I'm prepared for 'going to ground', as we snipers call it. I'd grab the crash-out bag and

go. It might sound like paranoia to most people but then they're not snipers. They don't know how badly the terrorists want us dead.'

He is not the first sniper to be exposed by blundering MoD officials. Four years ago, Household Cavalry Trooper Craig Harrison's cover was blown after he achieved the longest successful shots by a British soldier – killing two Taliban fighters from two miles away.

On his return to Britain, Trooper Harrison agreed to be interviewed by the media after receiving assurances from MoD officials that none of his personal details would be revealed. But the officials failed to inform newspapers,

leading to the publication of his name and family information. Days later he was told by police that UK-based Al Qaeda sympathisers were plotting to kidnap him.

Trooper Harrison suffered acute distress and later received £100,000 compensation from the MoD.

The revelation that snipers are receiving enhanced security and cyber-security training follows the brutal execution of Fusilier Lee Rigby in Woolwich in 2013, and recent intelligence from a Government agency, the Joint Terrorism Analysis Centre, that jihadis want to kidnap a soldier or police officer.

A MoD spokesman said last night: 'Keeping our personnel and assets safe is of the utmost importance, which is why our security arrangements are kept under continual review and frequently tested.

'All personnel are given clear guidance on social media use and informed of the standards of behaviour expected of them whether offline or online, on duty or off duty.'



**I'M BACK HOME NOW, BUT I'M STILL LOOKING OVER MY SHOULDER...**

By a British Army sniper

*I was a British Army sniper who served multiple tours of southern Afghanistan. Being a civilian now is a big change and to be honest I miss being a sharpshooter*



*every day – going to the war zone and doing my job. But then I look at my daughter and I realise I want to be at home with her.*

*I also did my fair share [of killing], but with what is going on in the world today maybe what I did was not enough? When I was down there in Afghanistan, I had no idea that I'd face these threats at home.*

*As an ex-sniper, I can never go public about what I did as a sharpshooter. Instead, I live a quiet life in order to protect my family – they are my priority and it is them I worry about. I'm always wary of people asking questions about my background and I don't give out my personal details. I also change my phone numbers and emails.*

*Snipers should take these precautions, especially considering what has happened to those who've had their cover blown in the media and on the internet. They've been to hell and back since officials let slip their names, which was unforgivable. So it is good that snipers are getting extra training to protect themselves.*

*It is very hard for people to understand what we have to deal with, because they haven't done what we've done. Sniping is a dark art. Basically we're there to kill the enemy and we're good at it. But that makes us unpopular with the enemy and their sympathisers here, so we're high-value targets.*

*I'm not looking for understanding or sympathy. It is easy for me to come to terms with my actions, basically because it has to be. I was woken up one night in Afghanistan and told to take out a Taliban fighter. I did it and I was back in my bed asleep ten minutes later as if nothing had happened. Sometimes it is that easy mentally. I couldn't be constantly thinking or worrying about what I was doing because I would have big problems, wouldn't I?*

*The film American Sniper is huge and it has got people thinking about how we deal with the job. Whether what a sniper does gets too personal or emotional for him to deal with depends on his mindset, his experience and his upbringing. For me, blocking thoughts like that got easier as I went back to Afghanistan and did the same thing again and again.*

*I am sceptical when I hear figures for so-called confirmed kills for British snipers, such as the 173 reported last week for a Royal Marine. How can they be sure? People don't normally die straight away when you shoot them. It is also hard to tell from long range. The idea of sniping is that you fire from far enough away that you don't have to go down there and check. Killing more people doesn't make you a better soldier either.*

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## Soccer deaths shed light on Egypt's political struggles

Source: [http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle\\_east/soccer-deaths-shed-light-on-egypts-political-struggles/2015/02/09/54ac2a8c-b08e-11e4-bf39-5560f3918d4b\\_story.html](http://www.washingtonpost.com/world/middle_east/soccer-deaths-shed-light-on-egypts-political-struggles/2015/02/09/54ac2a8c-b08e-11e4-bf39-5560f3918d4b_story.html)



Feb 09 – **The deaths of 22 soccer fans in Egypt cannot be seen simply as a sports tragedy.**



Like almost everything since the 2011 uprising that toppled authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak, the country's struggles and hopes — as well as the government's pursuit for power and respect — are very



much at the heart of what happened Sunday night outside the military's Air Defense stadium in an eastern Cairo suburb.

The main participants in the latest tragedy are Egypt's highly militarized police and the influential, pro-government media: two powerful institutions that have slowly moved to the center of life in this country of 90 million people.

Some answers to key questions on what the latest soccer riot tells us about sports and politics in Egypt:

#### **Q: What happened?**

A: Police fired tear gas into a narrow corridor packed with hundreds of fans leading into the stadium where Cairo club Zamalek was playing ENNPI in a key league match. Witnesses also said birdshot was fired. That set off a stampede, and authorities said all 22 victims died of suffocation from tear gas as well as being trampled. The Interior Ministry, which is in charge of police, said the fans had no tickets and were trying to force their way inside. But witnesses and fans say that many of them actually had tickets.

#### **Q: Why did the police deal with them so harshly?**

A: Since the ouster 19 months ago of Islamist President Mohammed Morsi, police been going to great lengths to show that they are back in charge after the force was humiliated and melted away after fierce battles with demonstrators during the 2011 uprising. They have consistently been dealing harshly with any protests, no matter how small or innocuous, or public signs of dissent against President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, the general-

turned-politician. The police also have a festering vendetta with hard-core supporters of Zamalek and those of another Cairo team, Al-Ahly. Known as the Ultras, the fans have made a habit of taunting police during matches with disparaging chants. Significantly, large numbers of Ultras took part in the 2011 uprising and provided the muscle in clashes between pro-democracy activists on one side and the police and army on the other.

#### **Q: How did Egyptians react to the deaths?**

A: They were horrified, particularly since the victims are in their late teens or early 20s. Moreover, Egypt experienced one of the world's deadliest soccer tragedies — the death of 74 Al-Ahly fans in the Suez Canal city of Port Said — in 2012. Sunday's deaths also highlight a country fatigued by an administration too keen to assert its authority, regardless of the cost, cracking down on dissent, even in sports, while grappling with an ailing economy and a fledgling Islamist insurgency. The pro-el-Sissi media was quick to blame the violence on the fans, not the



police. The host of a radio show asked listeners to spare a thought for the police trucks torched by the fans. Another one, on TV, warned against labeling the dead fans "martyrs." There also has been much criticism of allowing fans to attend soccer matches at a time when Egypt remains roiled in turmoil. That the game went on despite the tragedy that unfolded just outside the gates served as a potent example of an administration zealously asserting its authority. El-Sissi's office issued a statement mourning the deaths, but no official mourning period was announced and the president went ahead with his plans to attend a performance at Cairo's opera house with visiting Russian President Vladimir Putin.

**Q: Does Egypt have a history of politics or religion getting mixed up in sports?**

A: Yes. For decades, Egypt has struggled to contain Islamists seeking to topple secular regimes, with politics and sports often fused with displays of piety. In the 1990s, basketball star Medhat Wardah, who played for the Alexandria club al-Ittihad, wore shorts below the knees to conform to Islamic rules on modesty and celebrated wins by holding high a copy of the Quran. At the same time, players on Egypt's seven-time African champion national soccer team knelt in unison and offer a prayer of thanks every time they scored a goal. In other team sports such as handball and

volleyball, players frequently prayed together before a game. More recently, athletes who publicly showed allegiance to the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood by making a four-finger hand gesture were suspended or made available for sale to other clubs. Retired Al-Ahly midfielder Mohammed Abu Trekka was for years dogged by suspicions of being a member of the Brotherhood. On Sunday, when Zamalek's Omar Gaber refused to play in the match after hearing of the deaths, his contract was immediately annulled by the club's chairman.

**Q: What will happen now?**

A: The league has been ordered to suspend play indefinitely. The public prosecutor has ordered an investigation of the violence and el-Sissi called on officials to get to the "root causes" of what happened. The Interior Ministry, which is in charge of police, has gone to great lengths to deflect criticism of its handling of the fans. In past cases in which the police were perceived to have used excessive deadly force, none of its members was held accountable and the incidents were seen as an attempt to impose law and order on an unruly crowd. Already, there are claims the Brotherhood was behind the violence or that the bloodshed was part of a plot to stop parliamentary elections scheduled to begin next month.

**'No-Go' Islamic zones in Europe: Are we denying facts?**

By Soeren Kern

Source: <http://www.indiatomorrow.co/world/2689-no-go-islamic-zones-in-europe-are-we-denying-facts>



A 120-page research paper entitled "No-Go Zones in the French Republic: Myth or Reality?" documented dozens of French neighbourhoods "where police and gendarmerie cannot enforce the Republican order or even enter without risking confrontation, projectiles, or even fatal shootings."

In October 2011, a 2,200-page report, "Banlieue de la République" (Suburbs of the Republic) found that Seine-Saint-Denis and other Parisian





suburbs are becoming "separate Islamic societies" cut off from the French state and where Islamic Sharia law is rapidly displacing French civil law.

The report also showed how the problem is being exacerbated by radical Muslim preachers who are promoting the social marginalization of Muslim immigrants in order to create a parallel Muslim society in France that is ruled by Sharia law.

**The television presenter asks: "What if we went to the suburbs?" Obertone replies: "I do not recommend this.** Not even we French dare go there anymore. But nobody talks about this in public, of course. Nor do those who claim, 'long live multiculturalism,' and 'Paris is wonderful!' dare enter the suburbs."

The jihadist attack on the Paris offices of *Charlie Hebdo*, a French magazine known for lampooning Islam, has cast a spotlight on so-called no-go zones in France and other European countries.

No-go zones are Muslim-dominated neighbourhoods that are largely off limits to non-Muslims due to a variety of factors, including the lawlessness and insecurity that pervades a great number of these areas. Host-country authorities have effectively lost control over many no-go zones and are often unable or unwilling to provide even basic public aid, such as police, fire fighting and ambulance services, out of fear of being attacked by Muslim youth.

Muslim enclaves in European cities are also breeding grounds for Islamic radicalism and pose a significant threat to Western security.

Europe's no-go zones are the by-product of decades of multicultural policies that have encouraged Muslim immigrants to create parallel societies and remain segregated from — rather than become integrated into — their European host nations.

**The problem of no-go zones is well documented, but multiculturalists and their politically correct supporters vehemently deny that they exist.** Some are now engaged in a concerted campaign to discredit and even silence those who draw attention to the issue. Consider Carol Matlack, an American writer for *Bloomberg Businessweek*, who recently penned a story — entitled "Debunking the Myth of Muslim-Only Zones in Major European

Cities" — in which she claims that no-go zones are nothing more than an "urban legend" that is "demonstrably untrue." She then goes on to ridicule those who disagree with her.

The American cable television channel Fox News has also issued at least four apologies for referring to Muslim no-go zones in Europe, after one commentator erroneously claimed that the entire city of Birmingham, England, was Muslim. Had he simply said that "parts" of Birmingham are Muslim, he would have been correct.



Despite such politically correct denials, Muslim no-go zones are a well-known fact of life in many parts of Europe.

What follows is the first in a multi-part series that will document the reality of Europe's no-go zones. The series begins by focusing on France and provides a brief compilation of just a few of the literally thousands of references to French no-go zones from academic, police, media and government sources that can easily be found on the Internet by doing a simple search on Google.

Fabrice Balanche, a well-known French Islam scholar who teaches at the University of Lyon, recently told Radio Télévision Suisse: "You have territories in France such as **Roubaix**, such as **northern Marseille**, where police will not step foot, where the authority of state is completely absent, where mini Islamic states have been formed."

French writer and political journalist Éric Zemmour recently told BFM TV: "There are places in France today, especially in the suburbs, where it is not really in France. Salafi Islamists are Islamizing some neighbourhoods and some suburbs. In these neighbourhoods, it's not France, it's an Islamic republic." In a



separate interview, Zemmour — whose latest book is entitled, "The French Suicide" — says multiculturalism and the reign of politically correct speech is destroying the country.

French politician Franck Guiot wrote that **parts of Évry**, a township in the southern suburbs of Paris, are no-go zones where police forces cannot go for fear of being attacked. He said that politicians seeking to maintain "social peace" were prohibiting the police from using their weapons to defend themselves.

The Socialist mayor of **Amiens**, Gilles Demailly, has referred to the Fafet-Brossolette district of the city as a "no-go zone" where "you



can no longer order a pizza or get a doctor to come to the house." Europe 1, one of the leading broadcasters in France, has referred to Marseille as a "no-go zone" after the government was forced to deploy riot police, known as CRS, to confront warring Muslim gangs in the city. **The French Interior Ministry said it was trying to "reconquer" 184 square kilometers (71 square miles) of Marseille that have come under the control of Muslim gangs.**

The French newspaper *Le Figaro* has referred to downtown **Perpignan** as a "veritable no-go zone" where "aggression, antisocial behaviour, drug trafficking, Muslim communalism, racial tensions and tribal violence" are forcing non-Muslims to move out. *Le Figaro* also reported that the **Les Izards district of Toulouse** was a no-go zone, where Arab drug trafficking gangs rule the streets in a climate of fear.

Separately, *Le Figaro* reported that large quantities of assault rifles are circulating in French no-go zones. **"For a few hundred dollars you can buy Kalashnikovs,"** political scientist Sebastian Roché said. **"The price of an iPhone!"**

The newspaper France Soir published poll results showing that nearly 60% of French citizens are in favor of sending the army into troubled suburbs to restore order.

The newspaper *Le Parisien* has called parts of **Grigny**, a township in the southern suburbs of Paris, a "lawless zone" plagued by well-organized Muslim gangs, whose members believe they are "masters of the world." The weekly newsmagazine *Le Point* reported on the spiraling Muslim lawlessness in the French city of **Grenoble**.

The French magazine *L'Obs* (formerly known as *Le Nouvel Observateur*) has reported on the deteriorating security situation in **Roubaix**, a city in northern France that is located close to the Belgian border. The magazine reported that local citizens are "exiled within their own country" and want to create their own militia to restore order because police are afraid to confront Muslim gangs.

In August 2014, the French magazine *Valeurs Actuelles* ("Contemporary Values") reported that **"France has more than 750 areas of lawlessness"** where the law of the French Republic no longer applies. Under the headline "Hell in France," the magazine said that many parts of France are experiencing a "dictatorship of riffraff" where police are "greeted by mortar fire" and are "forced to retreat by projectiles."

Separately, *Valeurs Actuelles* reported on the lawlessness in **Trappes**, a township located in the western suburbs of Paris, where radical Islam and endemic crime go hand in hand. "Criminals are pursued by Islamic fundamentalists to impose an alternative society, breaking links with the French Republic," according to local police commander Mohammed Duhan. It is not advisable to go there, he says, adding, **"You will be spotted by so-called chauffeurs (lookouts for drug traffickers) and be stripped and smashed."**

*Valeurs Actuelles* has also reported on no-go zones in **Nantes, Tours** and **Orléans**, which have turned into "battlefields" where the few remaining native French holdouts are confronted with "Muslim communalism, the disappearance of their cultural references and rampant crime."



In a Russian television (Russia-1) documentary about no-go zones in Paris, the presenter says: "We are in Paris, the **Barbès quarter**, a few minutes from the famous Montmartre. **Finding a European here is almost a mission impossible.** Certain Paris streets remind one of an oriental bazaar." He continues: "The Paris banlieues have become criminal ghettos where even the police dare not enter." Hidden cameras record widespread lawlessness and drug dealing in the area.

A 120-page research paper entitled "No-Go Zones in the French Republic: Myth or Reality?" documented dozens of French neighbourhoods "where police and gendarmerie cannot enforce the Republican order or even enter without risking confrontation, projectiles, or even fatal shootings."

Some of the most notorious no-go zone areas in France are situated in the department of **Seine-Saint-Denis**, a northeastern suburb (banlieue) of Paris that has one of the highest concentrations of Muslims in France. The department is home to an estimated 600,000 Muslims (primarily from North and West Africa) out of a total population of 1.4 million.

Seine-Saint-Denis is divided into 40 administrative districts called communes (townships), 36 of which are on the French

the Republic) found that Seine-Saint-Denis and other Parisian suburbs are becoming "separate Islamic societies" cut off from the French state, and where Islamic Sharia law is rapidly displacing French civil law. The report said that Muslim immigrants are increasingly rejecting French values and instead are immersing themselves in radical Islam.

The report — which was commissioned by the influential French think tank, L'Institut Montaigne — was directed by Gilles Kepel, a highly respected political scientist and specialist in Islam, together with five other French researchers.

The authors of the report showed that **France — which now has 6.5 million Muslims (the largest Muslim population in European Union)** — is on the brink of a major social explosion because of the failure of Muslims to integrate into French society.

The report also showed how the problem is being exacerbated by radical Muslim preachers, who are promoting the social marginalization of Muslim immigrants in order to create a parallel Muslim society in France that is ruled by Sharia law.

The research was primarily carried out in the Seine-Saint-Denis townships of **Clichy-sous-Bois** and **Montfermeil**, two suburbs that were ground zero for Muslim riots in **the fall of 2005, when Muslim mobs torched more than 9,000 cars.**

The report described Seine-Saint-Denis as a "wasteland of de-industrialization" and said that in some areas, "a third of the population of the town does not hold French nationality, and many residents are drawn to an Islamic identity."

Another township of Seine-Saint-Denis is **Aubervilliers**. Sometimes referred to as one of the "lost territories of the French Republic," it

is effectively a Muslim city: **more than 70% of the population is Muslim.** Three quarters of young people under 18 in the township are foreign or French of foreign origin, mainly from the Maghreb and sub-Saharan Africa. French police are said to rarely venture into some of the most dangerous parts of the township.

**The southern part of Aubervilliers is well known for its vibrant Chinese immigrant community** along with their wholesale clothing and textile



government's official list of "sensitive urban zones" or ZUS.

**Seine-Saint-Denis** — also known locally as "ninety-three" or "nine three" after the first two digits of the postal code for this suburb — **has one of the highest unemployment rates in France; more than 40% of those under the age of 25 are jobless.** The area is plagued with drug dealing and suffers from some of the highest rates of violent crime in France.

In October 2011, a landmark 2,200-page report, "Banlieue de la République" (Suburbs of



warehouses and import-export shopping malls. In August 2013, the weekly newsmagazine Marianne reported that Muslim immigrants felt humiliated by the economic dynamism of the Chinese, and were harassing and attacking Chinese traders, who were increasingly subject to robberies and extortion. The situation got so bad that the Chinese ambassador to France was forced to pay a visit to the area.

In response, the Socialist mayor of Aubervilliers, Jacques Salvator, suggested that the violence could be halted if Chinese companies would agree to hire more Arabs and Africans. The Chinese countered that Muslims do not work as hard as the Chinese, that they are more demanding, and that they complain too much, according to Marianne.

**After local officials refused to act in the face of increasing Muslim violence, the Chinese threatened to "call on the Chinese mafia" for protection. Muslims responded by launching a petition to have the Chinese expelled from the area.**

One such man, Frédéric Gilbert, a journalist, was told:

"You can convert in any mosque in three minutes. All you need do is to repeat 'with conviction and sincerity' this sentence: 'I recognize that there is no god but Allah and that Mohammed is his prophet,' and the Imam will agree that you have converted to Islam."

In a story entitled, "When Town Hall Mayors become Imams," *Charlie Hebdo* wrote:

"In other words, Moroccan law prevails over French law in cases of mixed marriages and the same situation pertains with regard to other former French colonies such as Tunisia and Algeria as well as with Egypt."

According to the newspaper *Le Parisien*, the practice of "false conversions" to Islam is widespread because most non-Muslim grooms prefer fake conversions rather than to suffer "administrative complications."

In 2014, *Le Figaro* published the contents of a leaked intelligence document that warns about the imposition of Islamic Sharia law in French

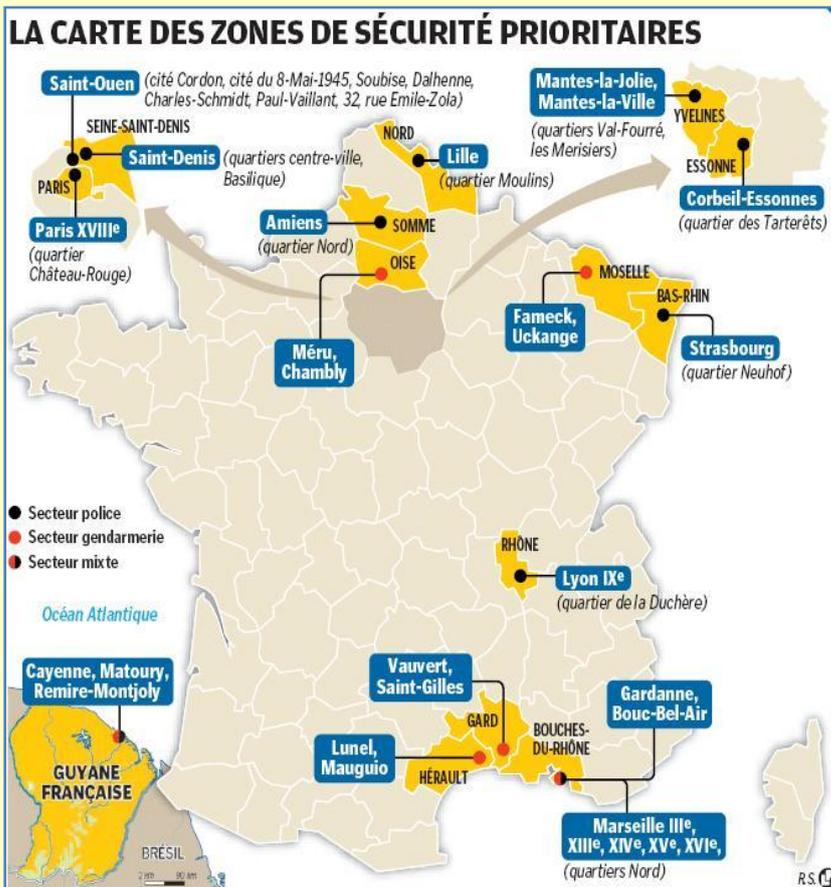
schools in Muslim ghettos. **The 15-page document provides 70 specific examples of how Muslim radicals are taking over ostensibly secular schools throughout the country.**

These include: veiling in playgrounds, halal meals in the canteen, chronic absenteeism (bordering 90% in some parts of Nîmes and Toulouse) during religious festivals, clandestine prayer in gyms or hallways.

The report details how "self-proclaimed young guardians of orthodoxy" are circumventing the March 2004 law banning religious symbols in French schools. In Marseille, a high school principal testified that some of her students pray with such fervor that they have "blue foreheads."

**In July 2012, the French government announced a plan to reassert state control over 15 of the most notorious no-go zones.** The crime-infested districts, which the French Interior Ministry has designated as **Priority Security Zones** (Zones de Sécurité Prioritaires, or ZSP), include heavily

Muslim parts of Amiens, Aubervilliers, Avignon, Béziers, Bordeaux, Clermont-Ferrand, Grenoble, Lille, Lyon, Marseilles, Montpellier, Mulhouse, Nantes,



Nice, Paris, Perpignan, Strasbourg, Toulouse and many others. The number of ZSPs now stands at 64; a complete list of ZSPs can be found here.

In a 13-minute Hungarian television documentary (with English subtitles) about no-go zones in Paris, the presenter interviews a French crime reporter named Laurent Obertone, who is the author of a bestselling new book entitled, **"La France Orange Mécanique"** (France: A Clockwork Orange).

In his book, Obertone writes that France is descending into a state of savagery and that the true magnitude of crime and violence across the country is being deliberately under-

reported by politically correct media, government and police.

In the documentary, Obertone states: "The French elite became outraged when [former French President Nicolas] Sarkozy referred to [Muslim] immigrants attacking police as 'mobs'."

The Hungarian presenter then asks: "What if we went to the suburbs?" Obertone replies: "I do not recommend this. Not even we French dare go there anymore. But nobody talks about this in public, of course. Nor do those who claim, 'long live multiculturalism,' and 'Paris is wonderful!' dare enter the suburbs."



*Soeren Kern is a Senior Fellow at the New York-based Gatestone Institute. He is also Senior Fellow for European Politics at the Madrid-based Grupo de Estudios Estratégicos/Strategic Studies Group.*

## UPDATE – UAE launches fresh airstrikes on ISIL targets

Source: <http://www.thenational.ae/uae/uae-launches-fresh-airstrikes-on-isil-targets>



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Feb 10 – The UAE sent a fresh wave of airstrikes on ISIL targets on Tuesday, the General Command of the UAE Armed Forces said.

**"Aircraft of the F-16 squadron based in Jordan launched raids this morning against positions of the Daesh [ISIL] terrorist organisation, hitting their targets and**



returning safely to base,” the UAE Armed Forces command said in a statement carried by Wam. The UAE and Jordan are part of the US-led coalition that has been carrying out airstrikes against ISIL since last year.



Tuesday’s statement did not say how many aircraft from the UAE squadron were in action, or where or what their targets were.

The squadron was deployed to Jordan on Sunday to boost the kingdom’s fight against ISIL after the militants brutally murdered a Jordanian captured pilot.

C-17 transporters and refuelling planes were also sent on the orders of Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi and the Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces.

“The initiative ... reaffirms the UAE’s unwavering and constant solidarity with Jordan and its leading role and immense sacrifices for the security and stability of the region as embodied by martyr and hero Maaz Al Kassarbeh,” a statement on Wam said on Sunday.

## Cloak & dagger Mystery surrounding Argentinian prosecutor’s death deepens

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150210-mystery-surrounding-argentinian-prosecutor-s-death-deepens>

Feb 10 – Argentine investigators are unraveling the details surrounding the death of Alberto Nisman, the federal prosecutor who was in charge of the inquiry on the 1994 bombing of the Argentine Israelite Mutual Association (AMIA) headquarters in Buenos Aires, which killed eighty-five people and injured at least 150. Nisman was found dead on 18 January in the bathroom of his apartment, with a bullet in his right temple and a .22-caliber gun next to him, and officials were quick to declare Nisman’s death a suicide.

**Sixty-six percent of the Argentine public believes he was assassinated.**

Two years before the 1994 bombing, the Israeli Embassy in Buenos Aires was bombed, killing twenty-nine people and wounding 242. Islamic Jihad, a Lebanese Shiite Muslim group with ties to Iran, claimed responsibility for that attack.

In 2006, Nisman filed a criminal complaint alleging that Iran and another Lebanese Shiite militia, Hezbollah, carried out the AMIA bombing as a response to



Argentina's decision to stop supplying nuclear materials and technology for Iran's nuclear program. **The organizer of the attack was an**

Viviana Fein, the prosecutor investigating Nisman's death, has described it as "suspicious."



**Iranian intelligence operative posing as the cultural attache at the Iranian Embassy in Buenos Aires, and the orders for the attack, according to the complaint, came from top Iranian officials.**

Nisman said that that evidence, including phone records, bank transfers, and the departure of Iran's ambassador and deputy chief of mission from Argentina days before the attack, implicated Iran in the attack.

Iran has since denied involvement and refused to extradite the suspects.

**Nisman also claimed to have evidence** proving former president Carlos Menem, who was president of Argentina in the 1990s, and several officials in the intelligence services helped hide the tracks of local accomplices, among them a Syrian-Argentine businessman, and of the Iranian operatives and bombers. The *Los Angeles Times* notes that Menem, the son of Syrian immigrants, is awaiting trial on charges of obstructing the investigation.

**Nisman's investigation went further, alleging that Argentine current president, Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner, had secretly negotiated an agreement with Iran to prevent prosecution of the former Iranian officials in exchange for favorable trade deals, including Argentine grain for Iranian oil.**

This allegation was included in a report Nisman submitted to a judge five days before Nisman's dead body was found.

Family members and friends have denied that Nisman committed suicide. His ex-wife, federal Judge Sandra Arroyo Salgado, reported that before his death she received in the mail a magazine photo of Nisman tagged with a black mark in the shape of a bullet hole.

Shortly after Nisman's death, President Fernandez de Kirchner wrote on her Facebook page that she was "convinced" that Nisman had not committed suicide. She suggested several possible scenarios to explain his death, including one in which rogue elements in the government's Secretariat of Intelligence killed him because "those who wanted to use him alive now want to use him dead." She has since disbanded the agency and drafted a bill to form a new intelligence body.

**Investigators searching Nisman's apartment have found a twenty-six-page draft warrant for the arrest of Fernandez de Kirchner and Héctor Timerman, Argentina's foreign minister.** Nisman had been scheduled to appear, a day after his body was found, before an investigative committee of the Argentine Congress to provide about his accusations.

"It would have provoked a crisis without precedents in Argentina," said political analyst Sergio Berensztein about the impact of the arrest requests — if they had been issued. "It would have been a scandal on a level previously unseen," Berensztein said.



# Is Your Child a Terrorist? U.S. Government Questionnaire Rates Families at Risk for Extremism

Source: <https://firstlook.org/theintercept/2015/02/09/government-develops-questionnaire-see-might-become-terrorist/>

**Are you, your family or your community at risk of turning to violent extremism?** That's the premise behind a rating system devised by

religious leaders to work together with law enforcement and other government agencies. The White House has made this approach a

**(U) Step 1: Rating Risk and Resilience Factors, Continued...**

SCORE	SHEET C: FAMILY RISK AND PROTECTIVE RATING					
	Parent-Child Bonding, Empathic Connection					
A	Not Rated	Low Bonding, Poor Connection		Neutral	Mutual Empathy and Connection	
	0	1	2	3	4	5
	Parental Involvement in Child's Education					
B	Not Rated	No or Minimal Involvement		Neutral	Very Involved	
	0	1	2	3	4	5
	Family Members Know Each Other's Friends					
C	Not Rated	Do Not Know at All		Neutral	Know Most Friends	
	0	1	2	3	4	5
	Family Members Aware of Each Other's Activities					
D	Not Rated	Low or No Awareness		Neutral	Very Aware	
	0	1	2	3	4	5
	Presence of Emotional or Verbal Conflict in Family					
E	Not Rated	High Degree of Conflict		Neutral	Minimal Family Conflict	
	0	1	2	3	4	5
	Family Members Violent or Physically Abusive Toward Each Other					
F	Not Rated	High Degree of Violence		Neutral	Minimal or Low Violence	
	0	1	2	3	4	5
	Family Members Trust Each Other					
G	Not Rated	No Trust		Neutral	Appropriate Trust	
	0	1	2	3	4	5
	Family Connection to Identity Group (Race, Nationality, Religion, Ethnicity)					
H	Not Rated	No Connection to Identity Group		Neutral	Very Connected to Identity Group	
	0	1	2	3	4	5
	Perceived Economic Stress					
I	Not Rated	High Economic Stress		Neutral	Economically Stable	
	0	1	2	3	4	5
	Family Involvement in Community Cultural and Religious Activities					
J	Not Rated	Not Involved		Neutral	Very Involved	
	0	1	2	3	4	5
TOTAL						

the National Counterterrorism Center, according to a document marked For Official Use Only and obtained by *The Intercept*. The document—and the rating system—is part of a wider strategy for Countering Violent Extremism, which calls for local community and

centerpiece of its response to terrorist attacks around the world and in the wake of the Paris attacks, announced plans to host an international summit on Countering Violent Extremism on February 18th.





The rating system, part of a 36-page document dated May 2014 and titled "Countering Violent Extremism: A Guide for Practitioners and Analysts," suggests that police, social workers and educators rate individuals on a scale of one to five in categories such as: "Expressions of Hopelessness, Futility," "Talk of Harming Self or Others," and "Connection to Group Identity (Race, Nationality, Religion, Ethnicity)." The ranking system is supposed to alert government officials to individuals at risk of turning to radical violence, and to families or communities at risk of incubating extremist ideologies.

Families are judged on factors such as "Aware[ness] of Each Other's Activities," as well as levels of "Parent-Child Bonding," and communities are rated by access to health care and social services, in addition to "presence of ideologues or recruiters" as potential risk factors.

A low score in any of these categories would indicate a high risk of "susceptibility to engage in violent extremism," according to the document. It encourages users of the guide to plot the scores on a graph to determine what "interventions" could halt the process of radicalization before it happens.

"The idea that the federal government would encourage local police, teachers, medical and social service employees to rate the communities, individuals and families they serve for their potential to become terrorists is abhorrent on its face," said Mike German, a former FBI agent who is now with the Brennan Center for Justice at New York University School of Law. German called the criteria used for the ratings "subjective and specious."

Arun Kundnani, a professor at New York University, said that enlisting communities in the way the administration suggests in the guide, "leads a range of non-policing professionals to cast particular suspicion on Muslim populations and profile them for behaviors that have no real connection to criminality."

Kundnani also questioned the science behind the rating system. "There's no evidence to support the idea that terrorism can be substantively correlated with such factors to do with family, identity, and emotional well-being," he said.

The guide itself notes that the effects of Countering Violent Extremism programs are "not easy to quantify."

The U.S. government isn't alone in its attempts to spot youth allegedly at risk of becoming terrorists. The government of France recently issued a widely mocked graphic demonstrating ostensible warning signs of radicalization, which suggested that abrupt diet or lifestyle changes are correlated with proclivities for violent extremism. (White House counterterrorism adviser Lisa Monaco last April warned parents and community members to look out for "subtle" signs, like "sudden personality changes in their children at home—becoming confrontational.")

The British government has put forward a plan to begin monitoring signs of radicalization at the pre-school level, and in the wake of the Charlie Hebdo attacks, children in France as young as eight years old have been detained and questioned by police for allegedly espousing radical views.

Experts have suggested that intervention by law enforcement or other branches of the government in individuals' lives, particularly young people, based solely based on the views they express, can potentially criminalize constitutionally protected behavior.

In some cases, as *The Intercept* has reported, community outreach from law enforcement has also crossed the line into intelligence gathering. Most of the document is a review of the literature on a variety of approaches to dealing with the threat of radicalization. **Examples given include a community policing program in Lewiston, Maine (population 36,000), and Saudi Arabia's rehabilitation program for former jihadists, including Guantanamo detainees.**

Though the White House has insisted that Countering Violent Extremism is not directed at any specific group, the NCTC guide only cites examples drawn from Muslim communities.

"It is obvious that, in practice, [this] would mostly only be applied to Muslim communities," said Kundnani, the NYU professor.

A public affairs officer for the National Counterterrorism Center declined to answer questions about the rating system, the methodology behind it, or why the document was marked "For Official Use Only".



## Sadomasochism and the Jihadi Death Cult

By Nancy Hartevelt Kobrin

Source: <http://tabletmag.com/jewish-news-and-politics/188892/sadomasochism-islamist-death-cult>



Anwar Tarawneh, the wife of Jordanian pilot Maaz al-Kassasbeh, takes part in a rally calling for the release of her captive husband in Amman on Feb. 3, 2015. (Khalil Mazraawi/AFP/Getty Images)

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**Paul Berman's recent essay in Tablet magazine "Why Is the Islamist Death Cult So Appealing?" is a wonderful piece on the history of Islamist ideas, but Berman does not really answer the question that he poses in his first line: "Why do people who are not clinically crazy throw themselves into campaigns of murder and suicide?"**

Berman's conclusion is that "apocalyptic dreams, the cult of hatred and murder and yearning for death" born of unhappiness is what motivates Islamist terrorists, and further that "eschatological rebellion against everyday morality satisfies them." But is that why they do it? Is that what motivates men in hoods to publicly decapitate an individual with a knife, or pose smiling with the severed head of a woman, or put bullets into the heads of hundreds of captives and toss them into the river, or most recently throw a prisoner into a cage and light him on fire? Berman addresses the ideological part of the problem, but buried deeper is the psychological pull of sadomasochism—the thrill of violence, power, and control that comes from inflicting pain on

others. This is the unspoken driver of the appeal of the Islamic State and similar groups. Although we cannot know what goes on inside anyone's head, the tools of psychoanalysis offer some tantalizing, and I believe promising, angles of interpretation. To be fair, military strategists, national security specialists, criminal-justice professionals and journalists are not trained to observe these men as if they were patients. They may have read the works of Islamists like Sayyid Qutb and Hassan al Banna, but they lack the diagnostic skills needed to access the deeper unconscious levels of psychology that are necessary for understanding the attraction of sadomasochism.

Indeed the denial of sadism by the specialists who usually comment on terrorism has ironically played into the hands of jihadis by permitting an identification with the aggressor. There are many people out there who, alas, like to watch torture videos of immolations and beheadings. We are even more reluctant to acknowledge that broad portions of the world's population are



drawn into this sadism because they cannot recognize their own impulses.

The Islamic State communicates to us on the deepest level of perversity possible, tapping into our own terrors through projective identification. The most recent atrocity committed by ISIS in the case of the Jordanian pilot Lt. Mu'adh Al-Kasasbeh is instructive. Why fire? Why the cage? Clearly they wanted to create a modern-day video of a medieval spectacle to terrify us in order to further a strategic goal: to issue a summons to obey them or otherwise become the object of their rage. But to leave it at that will not help us to deconstruct what is happening symbolically. The terrorists themselves do not realize how revealingly transparent their aberrant behavior is; they have no capacity to look at their own behavior or to understand it psychologically.

Unconsciously and concretely, they have recreated their own group self-perception of being "caged in" emotionally and mentally because of the debilitation of growing up in a shame-honor culture: They realize that, in the eyes of the world, Islam has been shamed. Fire, too, in the context of psychoanalysis, has many aspects worth considering. It might express projected rage. It might also purify an obsession with feeling dirty, deeply linked to this shame, which is supported by a religious conviction that normal human needs are unclean. They must therefore find a scapegoat and then kill off the contaminated one, inviting us to watch voyeuristically.

**But what of the Western converts who join the jihadi cults? What is the draw for them?**

It is nearly the same. From examining their childhoods, the majority are born into what I call shame-honor Western families—highly rigid and authoritarian or lacking any parental structure at all. And then there are the numerous jailhouse converts. Many criminals have a cognitive deficit, and some show signs of clinical sadomasochism. A sadist seeks power through control, manipulation, and forcing the other to submit. Intimacy comes only with violence. They feel, they bond, through violence: Burning the Jordanian pilot expressed the Islamic State's perverse sense of intimacy with its victim.

These jihadis then use fire to work through that which they don't understand. Since some jihadis have difficulty feeling emotion, they are obsessed with torturing the other in order to see feelings expressed on the agonized face of

the other. Fire can also represent their rage and denial of mortality, though they claim to love death. While they may think martyrdom can lead to a certain kind of immortality, that is a delusion: The Islamist ideologies are merely a conduit through which to project their own rage and terror. This all involves sadism of the highest order.

It is important to underline the fact that many viewers enjoy this kind of perversion. Like Jean Baudrillard, the French intellectual who wrote that everyone had to rejoice at the sight of the twin towers collapsing, an unknown percentage of people see these horrendous videos and rejoice—which is why they are viewed so widely and make such effective propaganda for the jihadi cause. We underestimate their appeal. We do not want to think about it.

While it is obviously true that we cannot place every terrorist under intensive psychological investigation, we can nonetheless speculate on their behavior and the sources of this trauma. My own research and descriptive analysis, corroborated by neuroscience findings, leads to the theory that terrorists have not developed empathy, which develops in the earliest years of life. Professor Aner Govrin at Bar Ilan University has written a fascinating essay in which he places moral development at the age of 1 and focuses on the importance of maternal attachment: The mother is the maker of the baby's brain, which quadruples in size between the ages of 0 and 3, and is the repository of morality and knowledge. She is also the earliest cultural interpreter of shame and honor for her child.

It is profoundly mistaken, however, to believe that undervalued women who have been constant shock absorbers for male rage and abuse are able to attach in optimal ways when they have their own children. I refer to this elsewhere as "the maternal drama," which, along with sadomasochism and shame-honor, lies at the heart of Islamist terrorism. Why now does it produce such a harvest of violence? Mass communication and the Internet have exacerbated a deeper cultural problem.

The Iraqi child-psychiatrist Dr. Sami Timimi has written that in Arab Muslim culture the bond between mother and child is unseverable. One is never permitted to separate from the mother. This is a perversion, a misuse of the baby as an object. In an honor-shame culture one does not go through



an individuation separation process known in psychological development as neotenization. This impedes maturity. The group identity is more important than the individual identity. Shame and revenge predominate.

It must be remembered that **the father** is also a symptom of the underlying problem in shame-honor environments as he, too, was once a baby boy experienced as an object of honor, not as an individual in his own right. Many experts on Arab Muslim culture get this point and emphasize the need for an authoritarian father-figure to keep the shame-honor tribes in line, but that just repeats the awful cycle of treating people like objects: ISIS immolated the Jordanian pilot, an object of their hatred, whereupon the King of Jordan retaliated by killing two terrorists and launching dozens of airstrikes to avenge the death, to great popular acclaim.

Yet I would argue that King Abdullah needs to use both the carrot and the stick. The stick is his revenge attacks on the Islamic State in order to reestablish honor in his kingdom. But at the same time he needs to begin to teach his people that the cycle of blood-letting has to stop in order to pull his people out of the morass of shame and its destructive culture through education and early-childhood development.

Arab culture needs to get over willfully spilling blood in order to cleanse honor. It is delusional, and it has profound consequences for us all. If we fail to consider the sadism of the jihadis and their early-childhood development, we will wind up in the cage that they have built for us. We do not need to share in their perversion. We know in the West that shame destroys a child, but we have failed to understand the ramifications of shame linked to sadism, which is shame's key instrument.

*Nancy Hartevelt Kobrin, a psychoanalyst, is author of The Banality of Suicide Terrorism: The Naked Truth About Islamic Suicide Bombing, Penetrating the Terrorist Psyche, and The Maternal Drama of the Chechen Jihadi. She is a research fellow at the American Center for Democracy and is currently writing Desperanto: A Conceptual Dictionary About How Terrorists Misuse Objects.*

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## Better Late than Never? Qatar Retracts Fatwa Permitting Burning People

By Raymond Ibrahim

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5025/better-late-than-never-qatar-retracts-2006-fatwa>

Feb 07 – It appears that Islam Web, a popular website owned by Qatar's Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs, may have been responsible for the rationale used by the Islamic State to burn alive a Jordanian pilot captive.

On February 7, 2006, the widely accessed Arabic website issued Fatwa No. 71480, titled "The Burning of Ias bin Abdul Yalil by Abu Bakr." The fatwa, or Islamic decree, concluded that burning people as a form of punishment is permissible.

Ironically, hours after the Islamic State burned the pilot alive, Fatwa No. 71480 was removed from Islam Web.

What is interesting to note is that the more recent fatwa issued by the Islamic State to justify the burning of the pilot makes the very same arguments as this 2006 Islam Web fatwa did — citing the same sources, hadiths, tafsirs, even the logic of "humility" — implying that IS may well have relied on this fatwa from the Qatari website when writing its own to burn the pilot alive — hence, why the fatwa has now "mysteriously" disappeared from Islam Web.

Incidentally, Islam Web won the World Summit Award of 2007, on the basis that it is "the best interactive edutainment website for Arabic-speaking children by the consensus of the Jury which met in Croatia, in evaluating the productions nominated from 160 countries."

Thanks to Rachid, a translation of the fatwa and image of the original Arabic before it was removed from Islam Web follow.



**The Burning of las bin Abdul Yalil by Abu Bakr**  
**Fatwa No. 71480**

Tuesday 2- 7- 2006

[Question]: How do we reconcile between the prohibition of burning [enemies] by fire made by the Prophet, peace be upon him, and the burning of las Abdul Yalil by Abu Bakr, may Allah be pleased with him, during the war of apostasy ?

[Answer]: Praise be to Allah and peace and blessings be upon the Messenger of God and his family and companions. Now:

The fact that the prophet – peace be upon him – forbade burning by fire is documented and stated in his holy hadith – peace and blessings be upon him – where he said: "No one punishes with fire except the Lord of fire," Narrated by Abu Dawood and Ahmad in his Musnad.

Snapshot of original fatwa before being removed from Islam Web

The scholars differ as to whether this prohibition is for interdiction or just for humility; Ibn Hajar said in [his book] Fath Albari: ".Al Muhallab said: This prohibition is not for interdiction but just for humility, and the proof that burning is allowed is in the acts of the prophet's companions, the prophet – peace be upon him – burned the eyes of the Oranyeen [from Orayna] with heated iron [nails]. And Abu Bakr burned the aggressors in the presence of the companions, Khalid Bin Alwalid [Muslim Army commander] burned some apostates, and most of the scholars of Medina [the prophet's city] permit burning castles and ships, upon its people, this was stated by Althawri and Al-Awzaai. Ibn Mounir and others said: there is not a proof for permission, because the Oranyeen story was revenge, and the case of castles and ships is allowed with the necessity as a condition, if it was a way to achieve victory upon the enemy.

As for the story of Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with him) burning las Abdul Yalil with fire is documented in the books of history. In the book (Alkamel): "las Abdul Yalil came to Abu Bakr and said to him: help me fight the apostates by giving me arms. He gave him arms and ordered him

to follow orders; he came to Muslims and even went down to Aljoa, and sent Nokhba bin Abi Almithae of Bani Sharid and appointed him an Emir on Muslims, then he raided every Muslim in the tribe of Salim, Amer, and Hawazen. Abu Bakr (may Allah be pleased with



him) heard about that then he sent somebody to arrest him [las] and bring him back. Abu Bakr ordered a fire to be set in the prayer court then he threw him [las] in it with his hands tied. If scholars have different opinions on the prohibition of burning by fire, as we have said, those who objected to burning allowed it in some exceptional cases, but there is no doubt that what las Abdul Yalil did was worth burning him [alive]. May Allah reward the Caliph of the Messenger of Allah – peace be upon him – for his zeal for Islam. And Allah knows.

*Raymond Ibrahim is a Shillman Fellow at the David Horowitz Freedom Center, a Judith Friedman Rosen Writing Fellow at the Middle East Forum and a CBN News contributor. He is the author of Crucified Again: Exposing Islam's New War on Christians (2013) and The Al Qaeda Reader (2007).*



## Rail security Railway stations should adopt some of the security strategies deployed by airports

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150212-railway-stations-should-adopt-some-of-the-security-strategies-deployed-by-airports-experts>



**A 2013 study by the U.K. Home Office recorded crime rates across every postcode in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland, and found that four of the top ten U.K. crime hot spots are major railway stations — Manchester Piccadilly, London Victoria, London Kings Cross, and London Euston.**

Railway stations experience large volume of crime due to their highly congested environments, which gives pickpockets and thieves opportunities to find a target. Large stations are also introducing more retail outlets, which increases the likelihood of more

shoplifting offenses. In addition, railway stations are home to a large number of cars and bikes parked and left unattended for hours, making them easy targets for thieves.

*Railway Technology* notes that airports have many of those same characteristics, but they fare far better in crime rates. James Somerville-Smith, Honeywell's EMEA channel marketing leader, believes that rail stations should adopt some of the strategies deployed by airports around the world.



“Picture the departure lounge at international airports during the summer holiday season with

Somerville-Smith adds that modern perimeter systems could help protect passengers’



thousands of people and their luggage in one relatively small space,” says Somerville-Smith. “Equally, walk through major railway stations on a Friday night in rush hour and the sheer number of people is overwhelming. Airports approach this in an innovative way, deliberately adopting a strategy that enables security managers to prevent scenarios from turning into incidents rather than just reacting to events after the fact.”

Airports have traditionally invested a great deal in security, adopting the latest security solutions better to protect their passengers, assets, and cargo. Airports do not rely on a single security system, Somerville-Smith notes, instead they take a multi-tiered approach, embrace flexibility, and practice risk management. He believes that rail stations should invest in advanced surveillance technologies such as video analytics. These investments will help security staff better identify suspicious behavior in a congested hallway or a parking lot.

“They will be enhanced by more advanced analytics such as emotional and facial recognition, enabling operators to pick out people who are stressed,” he says. “By integrating cameras together into a single unified view, using a video management system, it’s much easier to spot a person behaving in an unusual way and track them easily across, say, a concourse, as well as quickly guide the security personnel to the source of the trouble.”

vehicles by ensuring only authorized personnel can enter and leave parking structures.

Rail stations must also monitor staff who may have access to retail shops after closing time and to sensitive areas of the facilities. “Airports are managing their staff with state-of-the-art access control functionality and integration with HR and building management systems ensuring that no unauthorized personnel can access restricted areas,” continues Somerville-Smith. “These systems are linked to payroll and as soon as a member of staff leaves or a contractor stops working for the organization, their physical access credentials are updated simultaneously. Additionally, full integration between the HR and security departments makes staff registration seamless, and saves time for both security operators and HR staff while eliminating administrative errors.”

Rail stations tend to have smaller budgets than airports, therefore it may be a challenge to adopt many of Somerville-Smith’s recommendations. *Railway Technology* insists that passengers should be encouraged to remain alert and keep their belongings close by while traveling. **Already some rail stations in the U.K. have begun to implement that advice. The British Transport Police recorded 3,000 fewer crime victims in 2013 than there were in the previous year. This includes an 18 percent drop in recorded robberies and a 17 percent drop in theft of passenger**



property. Somerville-Smith warns, however, that passengers should not be burdened with the responsibility of reducing their susceptibility

to crime. "It is imperative that security systems provide peace of mind to travelers and staff in any transport hub."

## Women Are the Best Weapon in the War Against Terrorism

By Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka and Radhika Coomaraswamy

Source: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2015/02/10/women-are-the-best-weapon-in-the-war-against-terrorism/>



If there has been one common thread shared by the extremist movements that have captured the world's attention in the last year, from northern Nigeria to northern Iraq, Syria to Somalia, and Myanmar to Pakistan, it is this: In each and every instance, the advance of extremist groups has been coupled with vicious attacks on women and girls' rights. Yazidis who have escaped from the Islamic State have told harrowing stories of women and girls being traded among fighters, forcibly "married," forced to convert, and repeatedly raped. These horrific mass violations are mirrored in the accounts of Nigerian girls who fled from Boko Haram, in the tales of Somali women liberated from the rule of al-Shabab, and in descriptions of life under the Islamist group Ansar al-Din in northern Mali.

The name and location may change, but the common agenda and first order of business for these extremist groups is almost invariably to place limits on women's access to education and health services, restricting their participation in economic and political life, and enforcing the restrictions through terrifying violence. These violations are the extreme end of a global wave of fundamentalist conservatism, but it is an agenda shared by extremists of all religions, whose efforts seem invariably to focus on the suppression of

women's autonomy and a return to delineated, outdated gender roles.

While extremists place the subordination of women at the forefront of their agenda, however, the promotion of gender equality has been only an afterthought in the international community's response to extremism. This failure must be remedied. The international community must recognize, as the extremists do, that empowered women are the foundation of resilient and stable communities — communities that can stand firm against radicalization. Sociologist Zeinabou Hadari, who has worked for over two decades on the promotion of women's rights and leadership in Niger, once said that every step forward for women's rights is a piece of the struggle against fundamentalism.

Fifteen years ago the Security Council adopted Resolution 1325 on the importance of women's participation in all areas of peace and security, including conflict prevention, conflict resolution, and peacebuilding. This milestone was the result of decades of activism culminating in one revolutionary idea — that peace is inextricably linked with equality between men and women. Overwhelming evidence from around the world shows that women's empowerment is a powerful force for economic





growth, social and political stability, and sustainable peace. Gender equality and women's participation in the workforce and income generation are linked to higher GDP per capita; equal access to land and other agricultural inputs can increase agricultural productivity and slash world hunger; and involving women in peacebuilding strongly increases the probability that violence will end. It is no coincidence that in societies and communities where gender equality indicators are higher, women are less vulnerable to the impacts of violent extremism. Last year, the Security Council, the highest decision-making body on international peace and security, strengthened its commitment with a follow-up resolution and undertook to incorporate women's voices and participation in all areas of work, including counterterrorism.

But as the political power (and firepower) of armed extremist groups has grown, so too has the focus on military and security-driven solutions to stop their progress. The scale and severity of violence and suffering clearly warrants an international response utilizing all effective tools — including force. But the international community must learn from the mistakes of the past. Militarized counterterrorism operations disrupt economic and social activity, and destroy civilian infrastructure — the schools, markets, and medical facilities relied on by women in traditional caring roles. When governments focus resources on expensive military operations, social ministries like health, family services, and education are often the first to face budget cuts. Civilian displacement leaves women and girls vulnerable to sexual and gender-based violence, including, with grim regularity, crimes committed by the security forces supposed to be protecting them.

The failure to prevent these negative impacts constitutes willful negligence. It results in women's re-victimization, and ultimately in more poverty, more desperation, and more radicalization. Militarized responses always risk civilian casualties and threaten to drive marginalized young people into the ranks of extremists. Indeed, as increasing media reports show, despite the brutal and well-known crimes committed against women by the Islamic State, teenage girls are reportedly running away from their homes to join it. All of this points in a clear direction:

The struggle against extremism should not and cannot be treated as an entirely, or even predominantly, military exercise. While in some contexts and against some groups the use of force is necessary, it must always take place within the boundaries of international law, and with an objective of securing space for local women themselves to establish and protect their rights and those of their families and communities.

This past September, partially in response to the rise of the Islamic State, the Security Council adopted Resolution 2178. It called, for the first time, for the promotion of women's empowerment to halt the spread of violent extremism. Then the following month, the president of the Council issued a statement reiterating women's role in countering radicalization. It is well past time for these words to become meaningful global actions.

A number of organizations worldwide such as Women Without Borders and PAIMAN Alumni Trust are utilizing the strategic role of mothers and matriarchs to build early warning systems when they suspect their husbands, sons, or daughters may be involved with extremist groups. While this is important, the international community must also prioritize women's participation, leadership, and empowerment in prevention and response frameworks. This is a critical factor to address the structural inequalities underpinning extremist violence, and to ensure that when the capacity of one extremist group is destroyed, another will not rise up to take its place. As the indomitable Libyan human rights defender Alaa Murabit wrote in December, women peacebuilders are leading the fight against extremism by challenging its root causes: "we walk into extremists' homes, schools and workplaces. We speak to those who feel they have no alternative."

The way forward is clear. The international community must take up the challenge to combine militarized action with governance, human rights, and development — including women's empowerment and gender equality. Drones, airstrikes, and boots on the ground can halt the advance of extremist groups, but these tools cannot defeat radical ideologies nor build resilient families and communities. Empowered women are the best drivers of growth and the best hope for reconciliation. They are the best buffer against



the radicalization of youth and the repetition of cycles of violence. Women and girls are the

first targets of attack — the promotion of their rights must be the first priority in response.

*Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka is Executive Director of U.N. Women, and Under Secretary-General of the United Nations.*

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## Italy tables tougher anti-terrorism law

Source: <http://www.reuters.com/article/2015/02/10/us-security-italy-idUSKBN0LE2WH20150210>

Feb 10 – Italy proposed tougher penalties for terrorism on Tuesday with jail sentences of up to six years for anyone found guilty of recruiting fighters and measures to block related web sites.

The measures approved by the cabinet, which must still be passed in parliament, follow the Jan. 7 attacks by Islamist gunmen in Paris and the discovery of a plot to kill police in Belgium which have heightened security alerts across Europe.

**The proposals would give authorities tougher powers to withdraw the passports of suspected militants and there will be tighter controls on a "black list" of websites,** Interior Minister Angelino Alfano said after a cabinet meeting.

**The bill would allow new penalties for owning explosives, extra surveillance of potential "foreign fighters", and the person recruited - not just the recruiter - would be punishable.**

"We have proposed support for the police in gathering and processing personal information and in the analysis of that information, with the aim of preventing acts of terrorism and crimes against public security," Alfano said.

In a statement released after the meeting, the cabinet said the measures were similar to those adopted by France, such as criminalizing "terrorist self-training", for example by using materials found on the Internet.

A total of 15 people deemed dangerous to national security have been expelled from Italy this year, Alfano said, nine of them, suspected Islamist militants, last month.

After the incidents in Paris and Belgium, Alfano had said Italian security services were on maximum alert although no immediate, concrete threat to Italy has yet been reported.



## The terror of cancer, the cancer of terrorism

By Tara Sonenshine

Source: <http://thehill.com/blogs/pundits-blog/healthcare/232555-the-terror-of-cancer-the-cancer-of-terrorism>

Feb 12 – **This past weekend, I lost a friend to cancer — that dark, dangerous disease in which destructive cells lurk and stalk innocent bodies. Cancer creeps and crawls, clawing away at strong bodies made weaker by its presence. In this case, it took a beautiful woman, wife, mother and friend away.**

This past week, the world saw brutal images of Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS) terrorists on television and the face of an innocent young American woman caught up in the danger and

destruction. In that case, human beings took away someone's daughter; someone's friend.

**Cancer cells are terrorists that spread if not stopped. Terrorist cells are cancers that spread if not stopped. How can we address both in this global age of limited resources?**

First: The fight against cancer must be waged urgently and internationally. In 2014, there were an estimated 1.7 million new cancer cases diagnosed and 585,720 cancer deaths in the U.S., according to the American



Cancer Society. Cancer remains the second-most common cause of death in the U.S., accounting for nearly one of every 4 deaths. We need more prevention and better intelligence about why cells behave the way they do and how to ensure that we spot their abnormal activity early enough to restrict their movement to parts of the body where cancer is harder to contain. Then we need mitigation strategies to minimize the effects of cancer once it develops and to reduce the likelihood that it goes beyond its origins. Ultimately, we need an answer to protect the human body against the intrusion of cancer so that innocent people do not have to face the arduous journey of fighting back the disease. We need a cure. That requires money — including federal dollars. If we don't spend it, we can't end it. The fight against terrorism, like cancer, has to be waged internationally. Terrorism takes fewer lives than cancer, but it is on the rise. **The number of deaths from terrorism increased by 61 percent between 2012 and 2013, a study into international terrorism says. There were nearly 10,000 terrorist attacks in 2013, a 44 percent increase from the previous year** according to the *Global Terrorism Index 2014* report. **A report by the**

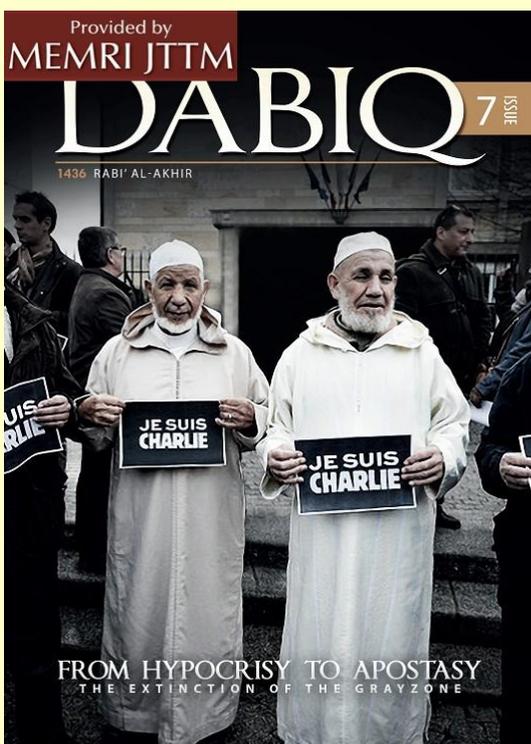
**Institute for Economics and Peace says that nearly 18,000 people died from terrorist attacks in 2013.**

Stopping the destruction of terrorism requires more prevention and better intelligence about why individuals behave the way they do and how to ensure that we get ahead of terrorist thinking and activity to restrict the movements of individuals or cells, containing their actions. We also need prevention and mitigation strategies to minimize the chances that terrorism sets roots. That means encouraging civil societies, which takes money. But if we don't spend it, we can't mend it.



**It is hard to know which nightmare — cancer or terrorism — will stop first. Both require immediate attention and resources. Both produce, in the end, a river of tears. Let's commit ourselves to stopping these twin evils. As good people, we need to do better on both fronts.**

*Tara Sonenshine is former under secretary of State for public diplomacy and public affairs and teaches at George Washington University.*



**ISIS's English-Language Magazine "Dabiq" Vol 7**

Source: <http://www.memrijttm.org/issue-vii-of-isiss-english-language-magazine-dabiq-celebrates-attacks-in-france-features-interview-with-leader-of-belgian-isis-cell.html>

On February 12, 2015, the Islamic State (ISIS) released the seventh issue of its English-language magazine Dabiq. The 83-page issue celebrates the recent attacks in Paris, justifies the burning of the Jordanian pilot, and calls for Muslims in the West to join ISIS, among other topics discussed. It also includes interviews with Hayat Boumeddiene, the wife of Paris kosher supermarket attacker Amedy Coulibaly, and with Belgian ISIS fighter Abdelhamid Abaaoud, the leader of the Verviers cell that planned major attacks in Belgium.

The following report is a complimentary offering from MEMRI's Jihad and Terrorism Threat Monitor (JTTM).





The following is a review of the main items in the issue:

**'Dabiq': Japan Responsible For Death Of Japanese Hostages**

The issue opens with a foreword that addresses the recent killing of the two Japanese hostages. It asserts that the Japanese government and Prime Minister Shinzo Abe are responsible for their deaths because they took sides in the war against ISIS instead of staying out of it, and therefore ISIS punished Japan for its intervention.

**Burning Of Jordanian Pilot – Retribution**

Another article justifies and glorifies the burning of the Jordanian pilot. It states that "the Islamic State resolved to burn him alive as retribution for his crimes against Islam and the Muslims, including his active involvement in crusader airstrikes against Muslim lands." It adds that, "in burning the crusader pilot alive and burying him under a pile of debris, the Islamic State carried out a just form of retaliation for

his involvement in the crusader bombing campaign." Referring to Jordan's execution of two jihadis, Sajida Al-Rishawi and Ziad Al-Karbuli, in retaliation for this act, the article explains that ISIS attempted to secure their release but "Allah had decreed that they would return to him as *shuhada* [martyrs]."

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**Interview With Leader Of Verviers Cell That Planned Major Attacks In Belgium**

The issue also features an interview with Abdelhamid Abaaoud, aka Abu Umar Al-Baljiki, the leader of the ISIS cell which had planned attacks in Belgium and was the target of the Belgian authority's January 15, 2015 raid in Verviers. In the interview Abaaoud tells how he traveled from Syria to Belgium with the intent of carrying out terrorism there, and how he avoided being caught in the raid and managed to return to Syria despite being wanted by security and intelligence apparatuses, and despite the fact that his name and photo had appeared in the media. He also discusses his co-conspirators, Belgian ISIS members Khalid Ben Larbi (aka Abu Zubair Al-Baljiki) and Sufian Amghar (aka Abu Khalid Al-Baljiki), who traveled with him to Belgium and were killed in the shootout with the security forces.



**Praise For Paris Attacks**

The issue deals at length with the January 2015 attacks in Paris. As part of this, it features an interview with Hayat Boumeddiene, the wife of kosher supermarket attacker Amedy Coulibaly (aka Abu Basir Al-Ifriqi), who fled to Syria prior to the attack. Boumeddiene, referred to as Umm Basir Al-Muhajirah, discusses her successful escape to the Islamic State and her late husband's devotion to ISIS's ideology. Another piece, titled "The Good Example of Abu Basir Al-Ifriqi," stresses Coulibaly's piety and devotion to Islam. The piece includes an interview with one of Coulibaly's associates, who praises his generosity and the good deeds he did during his



life, such as preaching Islam and financially assisting the Kouachi brothers, perpetrators of the *Charlie Hebdo* attack.

The issue's feature article, titled "The Extinction of the Grayzone," states that the world is now clearly divided into two camps – the camp of Islam, represented by ISIS, and the camp of unbelief – and Muslims in the West must therefore choose whether to join ISIS or side with its enemies. The article, which is accompanied by photos of Muslim leaders in the West, exhorts the West's Muslims to renounce "apostate" and "traitor" Muslim leaders and institutions, such as clerics who spoke out against the Paris attacks. It also urges them to attack those who mock Islam's prophet, and even insinuates that moderate Muslims should be killed. While glorifying various attacks carried out in Europe, such as the Madrid and London bombings, it also stresses that, after the establishment of the Islamic State's caliphate, Muslims in the West no longer have an excuse to stay in the West. Rather, they must leave their countries and come to the territories controlled by ISIS.

The article also denounces rival groups for not recognizing ISIS's caliphate and joining it. It especially bashes Al-Qaeda and Syrian rebel groups that refuse to recognize ISIS as the only legitimate authority. The article accuses them of being partisans for their group and of being lax in their faith and ideology, and claims that, by maintaining a neutral position between ISIS and the West, they are actually accomplices of the latter.

An article written by British captive John Cantlie rails against the Western media, and in particular the British and French media, for their campaign against ISIS, and also lashes out at British Prime Minister David Cameron and Western governments for their military attack on the organization, while claiming that the airstrikes actually increases ISIS's appeal to new recruits.

**ISIS Claims To Capture "Mossad Spy"**

In an item titled "An Interview with a Mossad Spy" presents the alleged confession of a 19-year-old from Jerusalem who, the magazine claims, was recruited by Israeli intelligence to infiltrate the organization. He speaks of his recruitment and training and tells how he was caught.

**Operations In Libya**

In this issue ISIS also discusses two recent operations in Libya. First, it claims responsibility for the kidnapping of 21 Egyptian Copts in that country in early January 2015, and explains this was revenge for the kidnapping by Copts of Egyptian women Camilia Shehate and Wafa Constantine in 2010. Second, it celebrates its January 27 attack on the Corinthia hotel in Tripoli, in which nine were killed, including five foreigners, one of them an American.

Another topic discussed is ISIS's expansion in the Caucasus, where several jihadi groups have pledged their loyalty to the organization, and in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region, which ISIS now refers to as 'the Khurasan province,' after some groups there also declared their loyalty to Abu Bakr Al-Baghdadi.

The magazine also contains a purported interview with **Hayat Boumeddiene**, who became one of the



most wanted women in the world after fleeing France during the terrorist incidents that began with the massacre at Charlie Hebdo's office.

Her husband, Amedy Coulibaly, killed a policewoman and went on to murder four Jewish hostages at a kosher supermarket days after two other men carried out the Charlie Hebdo killings. Boumeddiene reportedly made her way to Turkey and then into Syria, where she has allegedly been interviewed by Dabiq.

"All praise is due to Allah who facilitated the way for me," she said, when asked how she made her way to territory held by IS.

"I did not find any difficulty. Living in a land where the law of Allah ('azza wa jall) is implemented is something great. I feel at ease now that I have carried out this obligation. All praise is due to Allah. I ask Allah to keep me firm."

► Read about the previous six issues of Dabiq at:

<http://www.clarionproject.org/news/islamic-state-isis-isil-propaganda-magazine-dabiq>



## Putin Threatens to Release Satellite Evidence of 9/11

By Gordon Duff

Source: <http://www.veteranstoday.com/2015/02/10/pravda-putin-threatens-to-release-satellite-evidence-of-911/>

Feb 10 – American experts believe that despite the fact that relations between the US and



The attack was planned by the US government, but exercised using her proxy, so that an attack on America and the people of the United States looked like an act of aggression by international terrorist organizations.

The motive for deception and murder its own citizens served US oil interests and the Middle East state corporations.

The evidence will be so convincing that it utterly debunks the official 9/11 cover story

supported by the US government.

Russia proves that America is no stranger to using false flag terrorism against its citizens in order to achieve a pretext for military intervention in a foreign country. In the case of “the September 11 attacks,” the evidence will be conclusive satellite imagery.

If successful, the consequences of Putin’s tactics would expose the US government’s secret terrorist policies. The government’s credibility will be undermined and should bring about mass protests in the cities leading to an uprising, according to American analysts..

And as the United States will look on the world political arena? The validity of America’s position as a leader in the fight against international terrorism will be totally undermined giving immediately advantage to rogue states and Islamic terrorists.

The actual development of the situation could be much worse, experts warn.

Russia reached the worst point since the Cold War, Putin delivered until Obama only minor troubles. Analysts believe that this is the “calm before the storm.” **Putin is going to hit once, but he’s going to hit hard.** Russia is preparing the release of evidence of the involvement of the US government and intelligence services in the September 11 attacks.

The list of evidence includes satellite images. Published material can prove the US government complicity in the 9/11 attacks and the successful manipulation of public opinion.

*Gordon Duff is a Marine combat veteran of the Vietnam War. He is a disabled veteran and has worked on veterans and POW issues for decades. Gordon Duff is an accredited diplomat and is generally accepted as one of the top global intelligence specialists. He manages the world’s largest private intelligence organization and regularly consults with governments challenged by security issues. Gordon Duff has traveled extensively, is published around the world and is a regular guest on TV and radio in more than “several” countries. He is also a trained chef, wine enthusiast, avid motorcyclist and gunsmith specializing in historical weapons and restoration. Business experience and interests are in energy and defense technology.*



## Copenhagen shootings: Police kill 'gunman' after two attacks

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-europe-31475803>

**Copenhagen shootings**

Østerbro  
1  
Copenhagen  
Nørrebro station  
3  
Nørrebro  
1/2 mile  
Denmark  
2  
Krystalgade

**1 | 3.30pm, 14 Feb**  
Gunman opens fire on the Krudttønden cafe, killing a 55-year-old man and wounding three police officers

**2 | 1am, 15 Feb**  
A Jewish man is killed by a gunman firing outside Copenhagen's central synagogue

**3 | 5am, 15 Feb**  
Police shoot the suspected gunman dead after staking out an address in the Nørrebro district

GUARDIAN GRAPHIC ALL TIMES ARE LOCAL

Police in Copenhagen say they have shot dead a man they believe was behind two deadly attacks in the Danish capital hours earlier.  
Police say they killed the man in the Nørrebro district after he opened fire on them.  
It came after one person was killed and two injured during a free speech debate in a cafe on Saturday.

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In the second attack, a Jewish man was killed and two police officers wounded near the city's main synagogue.  
Police say video surveillance suggested the same man carried out both attacks. They do not believe any other people were involved.



"We assume that it's the same culprit behind both incidents, and we also assume that the culprit that was shot by the police task force... is the person behind both of these assassinations," Chief Police Inspector Torben Molgaard Jensen told a news conference.



He said police would maintain a high presence in the city.

The BBC's Malcolm Brabant in Copenhagen says the city has been on high alert after the shootings.

Early on Sunday, police said they had been keeping an address under observation in the district of Norrebro, waiting for the occupant to return.

When he appeared, he noticed the officers, pulled out a gun and opened fire, police said. They returned fire and shot him dead.

**Norrebro is a predominantly immigrant district of Copenhagen**, about three miles (5km) away from the synagogue where the shooting took place just hours earlier.

Police warned residents that it was not safe to be in the city centre, although they stressed that there was no curfew in force.

A massive manhunt was launched after the first shooting, which took place during a free speech debate attended by a Swedish cartoonist.

An audio recording, obtained exclusively by the BBC, revealed the moments leading up to the attack. One of the speakers at the debate, which took place at a cafe and concerned the limits of free speech, is suddenly interrupted by a barrage of gunshots.

Speaking to the BBC, witness Dennis Myhoff-Brink said: "People were trying to get to the doors, trying to get out of the room, hiding between or behind the tables and chairs, and some people were running out into the street."

Officials said the gunman made his getaway by car, and a black Volkswagen Polo was later found abandoned a short distance from the scene, police said.

**Swedish Cartoonist Lars Vilks**

Police released photographs showing the alleged attacker apparently wearing a purple balaclava and thick puffer jacket.

Hours later, a gunman opened fire on Krystalgade Street, about 5km from the scene of the first attack. A man was shot in the head and was later confirmed to have died, and two police officers suffered injuries to their arms and legs. The attacker fled.

A Jewish community group quoted by AFP news agency later said that the man killed was Jewish and had been on security duty while a confirmation ceremony was taking place inside the synagogue.

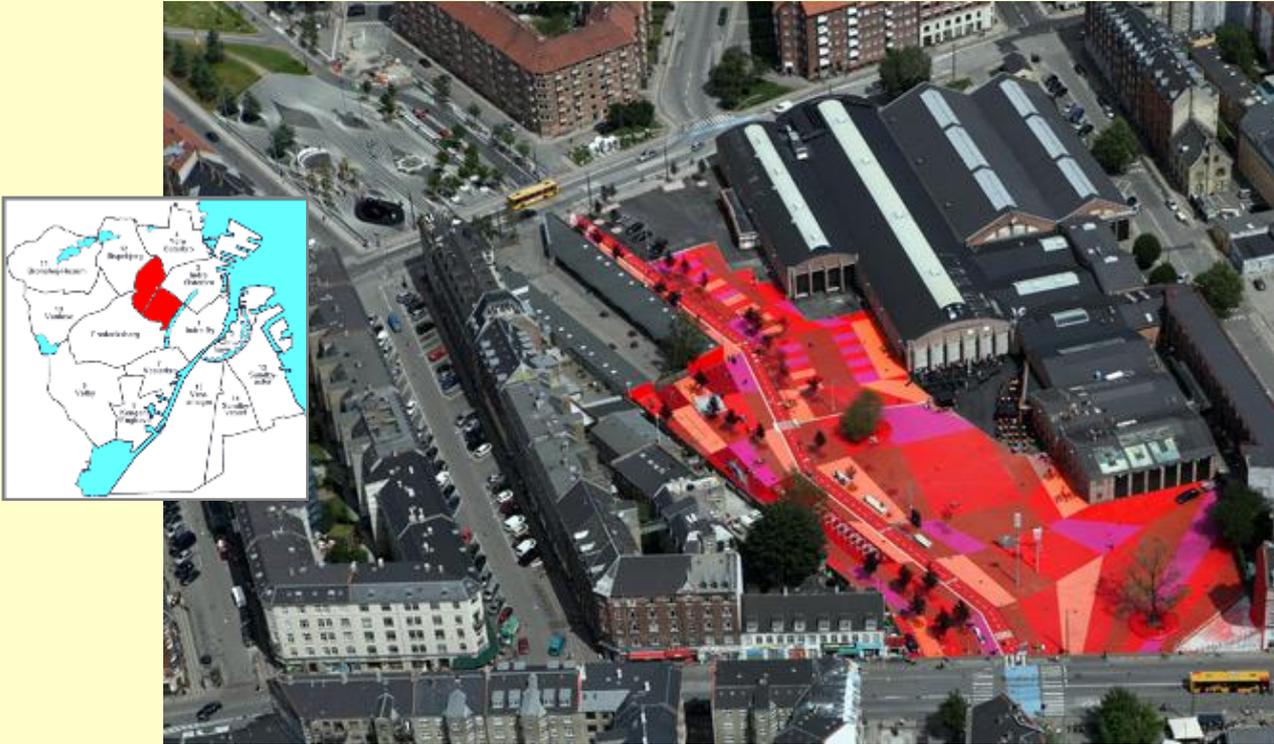
Police spokesman Allan Wadsworth-Hansen said the first shooting was likely terror-related and "it makes a perfect sense to investigate it [the second shooting] down the same route".





Prime Minister Helle Thorning-Schmidt described the first attack as a "politically motivated" act of terrorism.

Copenhagen's Norrebro district



**Blasphemy debate**

Cartoonist Lars Vilks, who has faced death threats over his caricatures of the Prophet Muhammad, said he believed he was the intended target of the attack. He was unhurt.

The French ambassador, Francois Zimeray, was also present during the attack.

A description of the debate at the cafe asked whether artists could "dare" to be blasphemous in the wake of attacks by Islamist gunmen in Paris last month against satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo.

In the French attacks, two gunmen opened fire at Charlie Hebdo's office, shooting dead 12 people. Two days later, a suspected accomplice of the militants took hostages at a Jewish shop, killing four of them.

All three attackers were eventually shot dead by police and security services.



**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** So far: France, Belgium, Denmark... Which country is next? Would it be Central/Northern European? A lone wolf or a sleeping cell? Just inspired or with real combat experience? Single city or multiple cities? Conventional or asymmetric? Horrifying questions but it seems that the end of terror is not visible – at least for the months to follow...



**The drone catcher**

Source: <http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-2948062/The-drone-catcher-France-reveals-flying-net-stop-terrorists-flying-bomb-laden-gadgets-nuclear-power-stations-following-spate-sightings.html>

Feb 10 – In a demonstration flight in La Queue-en-Brie, east of Paris, the mesh-wielding flying machine was shown snaring a DJI Phantom 2 drone - the same brand as one which crashed onto the White House lawn last month.

The U.S. Secret Service was sent scrambling by the unexpected intrusion, but France has

already faced dozens of drone overflights over sensitive sites. Mystery drones have buzzed nuclear plants, military installations and even the presidential palace in recent months, as fears run high of terrorist attacks linked to the



Middle East's Islamic State insurgency. Concerned at the new technology, officials



have asked scientists and companies to develop ways to monitor and detect intruding



drones and their remote-control pilots; analyse



and track their flight paths; and ultimately neutralise the drones, either temporarily or permanently, with the least collateral damage possible. Books closed on bids for the drone interception system last week, but so far it seems those lofty goals have not been realised. Indeed, the

maker of the six-bladed drone with the net demonstrated yesterday for an Associated Press photographer has not even bothered to put itself forward.

'This is a technology phenomenon, not an aeronautical phenomenon', Philippe Dubus, head of drone maker Malou Tech, told the AP, adding 'within 18 months, whatever they come up with will be obsolete already.'

Civilian drones have become a 21st-century hobby for many, from high-tech aficionados to curious kids, and a hot seller. Companies like Amazon even want to use drones for deliveries. But their increasing presence in the skies gives headaches to national security chiefs.

Interceptor MP200 in action

For months, France has faced dozens of drone overflights over sensitive sites — mostly nuclear facilities, a worrisome development in a country that gets the highest percentage of its energy in the world from atomic power.

French authorities say the drones currently present no threat. But some fear the drones could be spying on French technology or other weapons. Authorities have stepped up security at French nuclear sites and are investigating who might be behind the drone flights.

The possible risks of rogue drones include terrorism, the invasion of privacy, the theft of industry secrets, and 'damage to the credibility of public authorities, institutions or companies,' said France's National Research Agency.

A French security official said Germany, Britain, France and the U.S. were among the countries confronting the drone issue. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorised to speak publicly on the matter.



State media in China say Chinese scientists have already developed a laser weapon that

scrambling systems to block the remote controls that direct them.



© AP Photo/Francois Mori

can detect and shoot down small, low-flying and slow-moving aircraft inside a 1.2-mile radius.

Interception drones, like the one made by Malou Tech, could be sent up into the sky to fight back and low-tech solutions such as sky-



Other anti-drone devices could include pinpoint radar systems to track drones the size of a breadbasket or even smaller (and distinguish them from birds); high-tech lasers to destroy the unwanted intruders or telecommunications-

high netting or fences could also work, officials say. 'In other words, everything is possible,' said Mr Dubus.



The Drone Interceptor MP200, or Rapere (which is Latin for 'abduct'), doesn't even need to be controlled by a human. At just the press of a button it takes off and flies automatically. Using motion sensors and 12 attached cameras it can seek out any drone close to it, before lowering its net and going in for the kill.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** It was about time! Perhaps mini-drones would be soon equipped with micro-lasers or jammers that will destroy the flying enemy. Or even a throw-net! Or using ultra magnets to "arrest" the offender! But if you do not have them on hand, a shotgun will do the job just fine providing certain rules of engagement would be in place.

## A New Kind of Terrorist

By Daniel Benjamin and Steven Simon

Source: <http://www.brookings.edu/experts/benjamind>

As the cries of "Je suis Charlie" subside, two facts about the terrorist attacks in Paris stand out. First, every aspect of the response to the violence at the satirical magazine and the Hyper Cacher market has been outsized and extraordinary: the 3.7 million people who turned out to march against the violence, the unprecedented deployment of 10,000 French troops to secure Jewish institutions and even the 3 million-copy run of the latest edition of Charlie Hebdo. On the other hand, as the details of the attack have emerged, it has become clear that this kind of violence represents the new normal in jihadist terrorism. Whether we look at the recent incidents in Paris, Ottawa or Sydney, there are clear similarities. Low-tech assaults and hostage-takings, these operations are carried out by local militants with little direct involvement from a major jihadist organization. Despite al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula's claiming responsibility for the Charlie Hebdo killings, the group's role appears confined to drawing the bullseye on the magazine in its online publication Inspire, and perhaps giving the Kouachi brothers some training and money several years ago. These incidents have not involved spectacular suicide bombings or complex assaults on massive targets like Heathrow Airport or Wall Street. They have all claimed comparatively low numbers of casualties.

Dealing with the problem of self-starter, low-end terror will challenge Western governments and publics for several reasons: intractable conflicts outside the borders of the affected countries that are motivating extremists, the socio-economic problems that are the backdrop for this militancy, the difficulty of

identifying potential attackers and low public tolerance for violence.

The spike in the frequency of attacks has been driven in part by the excitement of radical Islamists in the wake of ISIL's successes in capturing and holding territory in Iraq and Syria and the group's effort to create an independent caliphate. After almost a decade and a half of setbacks to al Qaeda, ISIL's capture of Mosul and control of territory from outside Aleppo to Ramadi has provided extremists with a powerful sense that history is turning their way. The perpetrators themselves have overwhelmingly not been returned foreign fighters. They have been extremists who want to be part of the action, but at home. The recent shootout in Verviers in Belgium, in which returnees from Syria are said to have been involved, may indicate that the foreign fighter challenge is nearer than many had previously thought. But right now, the greater threat comes from those who seek to piggyback on the ISIL phenomenon but haven't been recruited by the group.

Even before ISIL captured extremists' attention, the new trend in terrorism was becoming clear, though attacks were less frequent. Early cases included the 2009 Ft. Hood shooting by Maj. Nidal Hassan, which killed 13, the 2012 shootings of seven in Toulouse and Montauban in France by a radicalized petty criminal and the stabbing of British soldier Lee Rigby in 2013 by a group of extremists. The Tsarnayev brothers who carried out the attack on the Boston Marathon belong in this group as well, since they operated without sustained outside guidance and used the crudest bombs imaginable.



Though no one can be pleased that these attacks have occurred, the fact that deaths per incident have come down so dramatically from the days of the Madrid and London attacks—not to mention 9/11—ought to be recognized as a major success in counterterrorism. That's not to say that terrorists have given up attempting major attacks—al Qaeda in Yemen remains focused on an undetectable bomb to stash aboard an airliner. The United States cannot let its guard down.

The task that intelligence and law enforcement faces in finding these individuals is difficult, especially because the lack of organizational affiliation means they leave fewer traces. So what is to be done? Even the best policy prescriptions bring real challenges.

Task number one is to take ISIL down a few pegs to persuade extremists that their global moment has not arrived. President Barack Obama has been right to avoid the trap of deeper intervention, which would lead to more radicalization. So airstrikes, coalition operations and training for Iraqi forces must be continued and stepped up. All this will take time and more energy than is currently being devoted to the task. The current pace at which the Iraqis, Peshmerga and moderate opposition are developing will not produce the kind of counterbalancing force that can deliver a punishing blow to the jihadists.

Europeans must spend considerably more money and effort on the threat posed by disaffected Muslims in their countries. Though they have stepped up their activity since the Madrid and London attacks in the last decade, the allocation of resources to intelligence collection and law enforcement is still well short of where it should be, as the litany of errors in surveillance of the Kouachis demonstrates.

In a time of austerity, this won't be easy. But as the Europeans build their capabilities and bring more to the trans-Atlantic intelligence exchange, they will establish relationships with the American intelligence collectors—the NSA above all—who have mostly come in for disparagement in the era of Edward Snowden. That increase in law enforcement and intelligence work will need to be done carefully to avoid provoking greater resentment and radicalization—always a tough needle to thread. The long, slow work of engagement by police and civil authorities to build partnerships with communities and identify extremists early will be essential.

Europeans, as has been widely observed, will also need to do better at integrating their Muslim populations and, more broadly, beat back rising Islamophobia. True, there have been gains, as the Arabic name of one of the slain police officers shows. And the remarkable acknowledgment this week by French Prime Minister Manuel Valls that “geographic, social, ethnic apartheid” exists in France also gives a glimmer of hope. But it comes against an historic backdrop of halting, insufficient action owing to ingrained prejudice, the strong anti-immigration dynamic that is shaping politics from Britain's UK Independence Party to France's National Front and Germany's Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the West (PEGIDA).

Europeans have long argued that American-style efforts to promote diversity in the workplace are contrary to their laws, but that argument suggests a lack of imagination. Job-creation spending to pierce the stagnant gloom of Paris' banlieues is essential. Moreover, the notion that a real campaign against anti-Muslim sentiment is in the works is belied by strong and unreflective support for Charlie Hebdo and its offensive cartoons.

The United States has many advantages over Europe when it comes to protecting itself against homegrown extremism, including a much wealthier, better-educated, widely distributed set of Muslim communities. But the threat of the determined self-starter, like Christopher Lee Cornell, the Ohio-based ISIL sympathizer who was planning to attack the U.S. Capitol until he was arrested last week, will be with us for some time too.

What Europe and the United States—where the Paris killings have dominated the news and exacerbated the feeling of an imminent major terrorist threat, rapidly—need above all is a change in attitude, a greater resilience, in the face of this threat. None of our societies has fully absorbed the notion that this kind of terrorist violence is an endemic characteristic of our times.

The high-end threat along the lines of 9/11 has been much diminished by U.S. counterterrorism efforts. But there is no foolproof defense against the Ft. Hood shooters, Boston Marathon-type amateurs and Kouachis. They are as much a part of life today as the killers of Newtown and Columbine. We need to stop them



as best we can, but we can neither let them dominate our lives nor make us believe that they threaten our societies. That message, more than any other, is the one that world

leaders need to impress upon to the sea of marchers in Paris and the hundreds of millions more around the West around who watched them.

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**EDITOR'S COMMENT**

We are all Australians! (terrorism)  
 We are all Canadians! (terrorism)  
 Je suis Charlie! (terrorism)  
 Vi er Danskere! (terrorism)  
 We are all Greeks! (austerity terrorism)  
 (terrorism) والأردن يمين المصريين كل نحن  
 我々は、すべて日本人です！(terrorism)



We love to be "ALL" but is it enough? Is it enough to tackle terrorism and all its modern forms? Is it enough to stop the class of civilizations? Is it enough to counter the backstage chess and divide/conquer ambitions of the kings of ashes? Is it enough to regain control of our nations and walk again the paths of progress, prosperity through peace and hard work? Is it enough for doing that in this life and not in a next one or in Paradise? Rhetoric is boring and hypocretic – let us move to actions even in the last minute before total destruction. Our own gangrene is already eating our extremities and septic shock is just in the next corner...



**There's a group far more dangerous than ISIS!**

Source: <http://www.rediff.com/news/report/there-a-group-far-more-dangerous-than-isis/20150215.htm>



**Radical Islamist group Hizb-ut-Tahrir which cleverly avoided global scrutiny while spreading its ideology may become a more dangerous terrorist group than the ISIS and its presence in South Asia**

**should be a cause for concern for India, according to a report.**

"While ISIS runs amok in Syria and Iraq, demanding media attention through acts of barbarous cruelty, HuT (Hizb-ut- Tahrir or the Party of Liberation) is quietly building a global infrastructure of radicalised youth and deep-pocketed Arab support in preparation for the

global Khilafat," said the report published in the latest edition of CTX Journal.

The group has cleverly avoided any intense global scrutiny while spreading its ideology and support base in nearly 50 countries, said the report.

The group commands a base of over one million members worldwide. This is far higher than what ISIS claims to have.

**Citing reports, the journal said HuT has an armed wing called Harakat ul-Muhajirinfī Britaniya that is training its cadres in chemical, bacteriological, and biological warfare.**

"HuT, therefore, has the potential to become an even more dangerous terrorist group than



ISIS," said the journal from US-based Global Education Community Collaboration Online.

Founded in Jerusalem in 1952 and headquartered in London, the group has branches in Central Asia, Europe, South Asia, and Southeast Asia, particularly in Indonesia, where it has managed to garner great influence.

In South Asia, HuT has a significant presence in Pakistan and Bangladesh.

"Although HuT has reportedly found a foothold in India, its presence and influence have not made any significant impact," said the multimedia journal on strategic and security affairs.

"HuT's growing presence in neighbouring Bangladesh and Pakistan should be a cause of concern for India and the larger global community," it said.

On its website, HuT claimed that it had organised a demonstration in 2010 at Batla House in Delhi in protest against Israel's alleged atrocities.

The demonstration, which was attended by about 1,000 people, was HuT's last reported activity in India, said the report prepared by Surinder Kumar Sharma, who is associated with Delhi-based Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses.

Noting that at the ideological level there is much in common between HuT and ISIS, the journal said "the majority of individuals and entities who support ISIS also support HuT."

**It said HuT's strategy is different from ISIS and the group is slowly increasing its social capital by keeping away from overt acts of terrorism while luring the educated youths.**

ISIS is an Al Qaeda splinter group and it has seized hundreds of square miles in Iraq and Syria. Al Qaeda has distanced itself from the group, chiding it for its lack of teamwork in its aggressive, brutal expansion.

## The politics of (not) counting: why war on terror's civilian toll matters

By Tom Gregory and Alex Edney-Browne

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150216-the-politics-of-not-counting-why-war-on-terror-s-civilian-toll-matters>

Feb 16 – **Lieutenant-General James L. Terry, commander of U.S. forces in Iraq and Syria, recently admitted he had no idea how many civilians have died as a result of coalition airstrikes in the region.**

In Bangladesh, HuT has managed to gather the support of many intellectuals, including doctors, lawyers, and professors. The group was officially banned in Bangladesh in 2009 for anti-state activities.

Compared to Bangladesh, HuT has a longer history in Pakistan, where it established its base in 1990. The group remained underground until 2000.

**Pakistan banned HuT in 2003 after it was linked with several terror plots, including a plot to kill former President Pervez Musharraf.**

Despite the ban, HuT is reportedly deepening its support among the intelligentsia and military circles, it said.

HuT's global ambition and activities are bankrolled through private donations from local entrepreneurs to Islamic charity organisations, the report said.

**Wealthy sheikhs from Saudi Arabia and other Gulf nations, who embrace the pan-Islamic agenda, also fund the outfit.** This financial support is one of the reasons that HuT believes it will be able to establish the Caliphate, it said.

Given the fact that HuT already has a wide reach and is successfully inducting and radicalising educated youth, the outfit has the potential to stage coups and uprisings against governments and regimes that it considers un-Islamic or aligned with anti-Muslim powers, the report said.

HuT may well prove dangerous because it has immense influence on people, especially in the way that it legitimises the cause to establish a Caliphate, it said.

**While the world's focus currently is on ISIS, it would be a grave folly to ignore the growing influence of HuT and its global agenda, the report warned.**

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In a briefing eerily reminiscent of the notorious "we don't do body counts" remark by General Tommy Franks (the commander of U.S. operations in Afghanistan



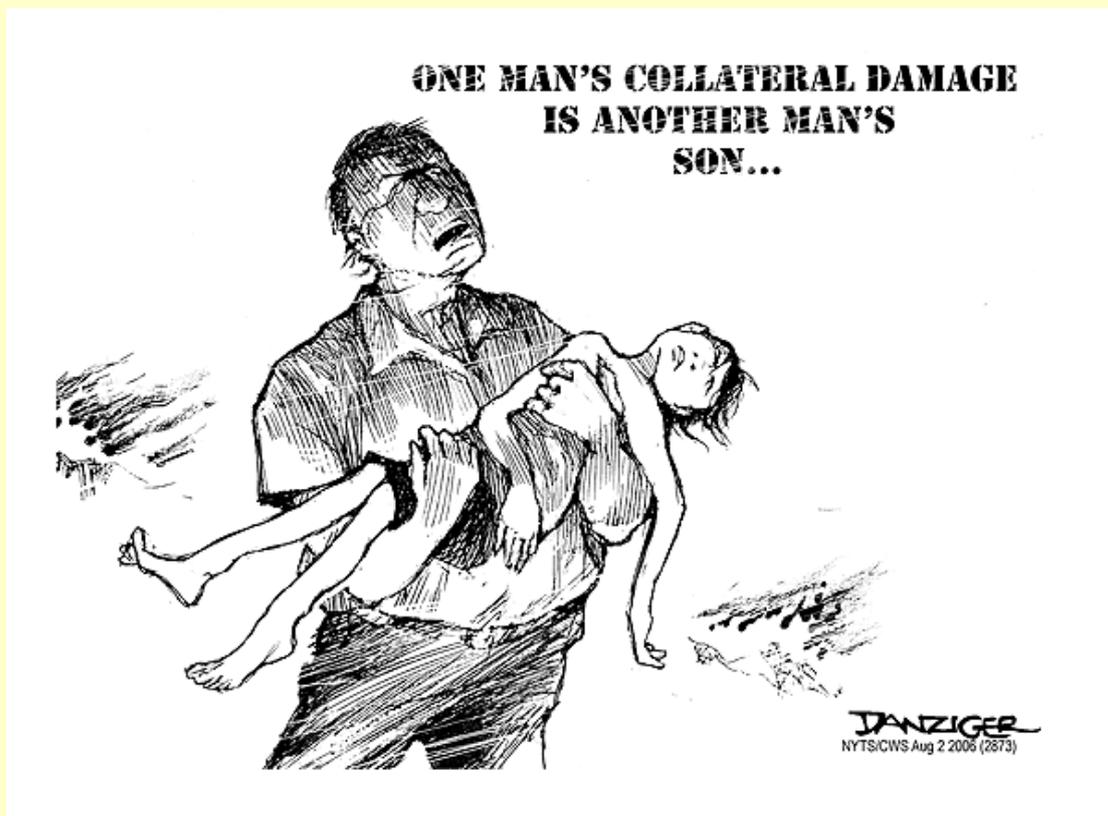
and Iraq), Terry told reporters in December 2014 he was “tracking no civilian casualties” even though non-combatants are known to have been killed in at least two separate incidents.

The current failure to monitor civilians killed may seem unsurprising given the previous Bush administration’s rather glib attitude. Then-defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld was very good at deflecting criticisms of American forces. He claimed: **“Responsibility for every single casualty in this war, be they innocent Afghans or innocent Americans, rests at the feet of the Taliban and al-Qaeda.”**

Likewise, George W. Bush argued: “Saddam

A key component of the counterinsurgency doctrine (COIN) developed under General David Petraeus’s auspices was that the United States needed to move away from enemy-centric operations and embrace a more population-centric approach.

By focusing on winning the hearts and minds of ordinary people, it was argued that the insurgency’s support structure could be removed without having to confront them head-on. The overall aim is not to gain control of territory as you would in a conventional war, but to win the local population’s support by convincing them that you can protect and provide.



Hussein regards the Iraqi people as human shields, entirely expendable when their suffering serves his purposes.”

More worryingly, this attitude towards non-combatants was reflected in the kinds of operations undertaken and the types of weapons used, including cluster bombs.

**The battle for hearts and minds**

Since 2007, however, a growing body of literature has emerged from inside the U.S. military that stresses the importance of tracking civilian casualties on strategic rather than moral grounds.

Within this framework, civilians’ deaths become a strategic consideration rather than a purely legal one. Avoiding civilian casualties was not simply a matter of adhering to international law, but an essential part of winning the war. Sarah Sewall, a key architect of COIN, argued: “... killing the civilian is no longer just collateral damage ... [it] undermines the counterinsurgent’s goals.”

Lieutenant-General Curtis M. Scaparrotti also claimed: “... any civilian loss of life is detrimental to the coalition’s cause. Avoiding civilian casualties must be a top priority and it must





be at the forefront of all mission planning and execution.”

The U.S. Department of the Army even put together a report focusing on ways of limiting the harm caused to civilians and the harm civilian casualties cause to the mission. One key recommendation from this report, and others, is that all non-combatant deaths should be “aggregated in a standardized database” so they can be tracked, monitored and investigated.

The rationale for this is clear. A detailed “battle damage assessment” enables the military to respond to allegations in a swift and thorough manner, mitigating the negative effects it will have on public perceptions.

Also, tracking and monitoring the deaths of civilians allows the military to identify lessons to be learnt and adjust military operations accordingly. In this respect, Terry’s recent refusal to track civilian casualties represents a radical departure from established military protocol.

**A step backwards?**

**Framing civilian casualties as “strategic setbacks” is still clearly problematic.** It might appear that the lives of ordinary people matter, but it is important to recognize that they only matter to the extent that they might impinge upon the success of military operations. Civilian casualties were only

counted because they were considered counterproductive.

By objectifying them in this manner, the civilian population was simply co-opted into a strategic economy focused on winning the war rather than waging it more humanely. Their deaths were not mourned because they were recognized as genuine losses, but regretted because they undermined the success of military operations. Also, the idea that wars can be fought in a more humane and less violent manner has the paradoxical effect of hiding much of the pain and suffering caused.

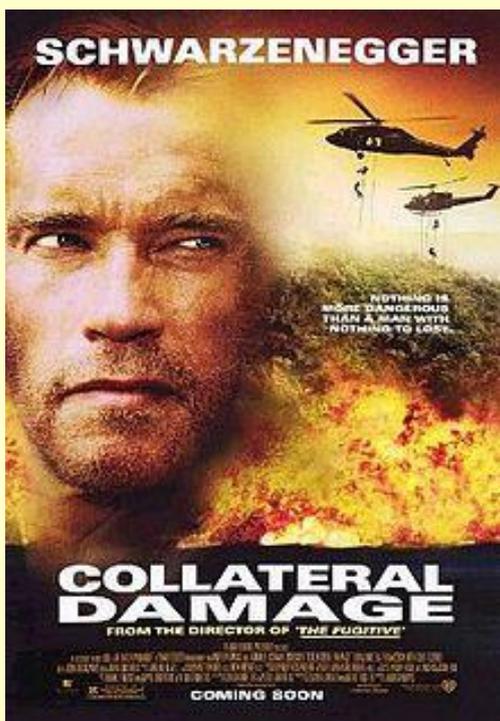
Nevertheless, it is true that as the rules of engagement tightened and non-combatant deaths were monitored more closely, civilian casualties decreased.

**In this respect, the announcement that the United States is not counting the dead in the battle against IS is a step backwards. Not only does it reinforce the view that the lives of ordinary Iraqis and Syrians are not counted because they do not matter, it flies in the face of the military’s own recommendations about the strategic importance of tracking civilian casualties.**

As well as being questionable on moral grounds, the refusal to count civilian casualties could be seen as a strategic mistake on the military’s own terms — fanning the flames of resentment in a region already in the midst of a violent war.

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**Collateral Damage** is a 2002 American action film directed by Andrew Davis, starring Arnold Schwarzenegger, Elias Koteas, Francesca Neri, Cliff Curtis, John Leguizamo and John Turturro. The film was released in the United States on February 8, 2002.

The film tells the story of Los Angeles firefighter, Gordon Brewer (Arnold Schwarzenegger), who looks to avenge his son and wife's death at the hands of a guerrilla commando, by traveling to Colombia and facing his family's killers.



## Copenhagen shooting suspect Omar El-Hussein – a past full of contradictions

Source: <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2015/feb/16/copenhagen-shooting-suspect-omar-el-hussein-a-past-full-of-contradictions>



Police handout of Omar Abdel Hamid El-Hussein, widely named as the gunman in the Copenhagen shooting. Photograph: AP

Feb 16 – **Omar El-Hussein, the 22-year-old Danish man shot dead by police after supposedly carrying out the worst attack on Danish soil for decades, was a petty criminal with a past seemingly full of contradictions.** He was a smart student but reportedly had a short fuse and was prone to violence. He was a talented kick-boxer and yet appeared to have suffered from anxiety and used cannabis.

Believed to have been born in Copenhagen to Palestinian parents who left a refugee camp in Jordan to come to Denmark, he spoke fluent Danish and Arabic and, local media reported, was always quick to debate the Palestinian issue.

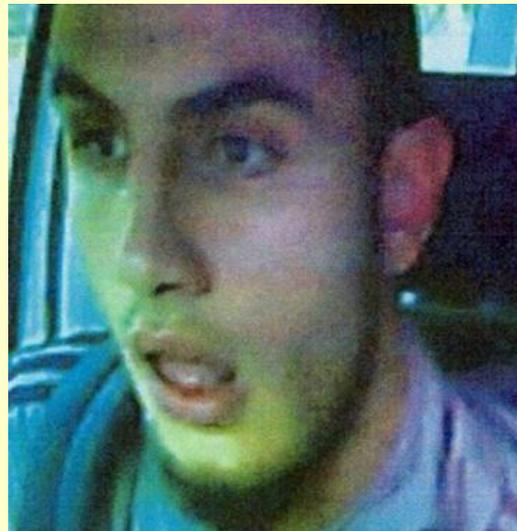
El-Hussein has been widely named by local media as the **Copenhagen gunman**. Danish intelligence services have suggested the fatal Copenhagen shooting of a film-maker at a freedom of speech debate and a Jewish security guard at a synagogue may have been a copycat of last month's Paris attacks on the satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo and a kosher supermarket. If that was the case, El-Hussein would have had to have followed those Paris attacks from a Danish prison, where he was

serving a two-year sentence for stabbing a 19-year-old man on Copenhagen's inner-city train system. He had been released from prison only two weeks before the attacks in Copenhagen this weekend.

It is not yet clear whether he became radicalised in prison like the men behind the Paris attacks. But Michael Gjorup, head of the country's prison and probation service, told Danish media that authorities had noticed changes in his behaviour in prison and had alerted the intelligence services.

Details on El-Hussein's upbringing in Copenhagen remain sketchy. A court psychiatric assessment of him carried out during the stabbing case, and obtained by Danish TV2, showed him telling psychologists he had a happy childhood and good relations with his parents and a younger brother. However, he did not graduate from school, was unable to get into a university and later was homeless.

Omar El-Hussein. Photograph: Politifoto/AP



Although it was not clear where he had lived after leaving prison, he was well-known on the low-rise, red-brick Mjølnerparken poor housing-estate in north west Copenhagen, where police had raided an apartment at the weekend searching for weapons. Behind the peeling paint of the front door, the stairwell where flats were searched was graffitied



with black pen and strewn with litter. Past the children's play areas of the estate, Emilie Hansson, 26, who is half Swedish, said she knew El-Hussein and had seen him at the



estate last week. She said: "For me he's not a terrorist. He's someone who felt finished with life and decided to go out with a big bang." An 18-year-old at school nearby said he thought those who knew El-Hussein had been shocked he could have carried out the attacks.

Most of the families living on the estate have immigrant roots. "Foreign-origin families have all been lumped together here by politicians," said one local who did not want to be named. But the neighbourhood has slowly been gentrifying as young people priced out of the city centre move nearby.

The Mjølnerparken estate and other streets nearby have been known for gang problems in recent years, largely turf wars between different immigrant groups and other motorcycle gangs, mostly related to issues of who controls local cannabis-dealing. The gang stand-offs are believed to have calmed in recent months, but criminality persists. It is not clear how deeply El-Hussein might have been involved in local gangs, known as the "boys", or whether he moved between various gangs. Some local media suggested he had been rejected by gangs and had not fitted in. But he had been known to police for fights in the Nørrebro district, the multi-ethnic working-class and gentrified area where he is thought to have spent time since leaving jail, and where he was finally shot dead by police on Sunday returning to an address under surveillance in north west Copenhagen.

The Politken newspaper quoted unnamed friends of El-Hussein who said he was passionate in political discussions about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, was always keen to discuss the conflict and was quick-tempered.

He had previously been arrested in possession of a long knife and a knuckleduster with a metal spike.

Before his jail sentence, El-Hussein had been a rising star at Copenhagen's Muay Thai kickboxing club, which is tucked behind a kindergarten in a series of graffitied buildings with a vast spray-paint portrait of a boxer under the sign "The Temple 4 Talentz".

An apartment where El-Hussein is believed to have lived. Photograph: IBL/REX/IBL/REX

Denmark has a problem with young men leaving to take up arms in the Middle East – with more than 100 young jihadists emerging since 2012, the country has produced one of Europe's highest levels of fighters per head of population and some key figures leaving have been linked to Copenhagen's criminal gangs. But El-Hussein himself had not been abroad to Syria or Iraq.

The question remains whether or not he was part of a wider group and whether others helped him organise the attacks. Two men arrested on Sunday have been charged with aiding El-Hussein by helping him evade police and get rid of a weapon in during the manhunt which ended in police shooting him.

At the Power Play internet café on a busy street in Nørrebro, which police had raided on Sunday, detaining four people and seizing CCTV footage, the 35-year-old Danish manager of Pakistani origin, said: "I've never seen the suspect in here. Mjølnerparken is a pretty criminal area and there are local gangs, young guys come in here when they're bored, principally to do gaming and waste time. They'd be playing action games like Battlefield, Call of Duty, but I've never had the sense it was a terrorist hotbed round here. The biggest problem round here is crime and gangs dealing hash." Behind the till, there were rows of crisps and sweets and a coffee machine with hot chocolate, a fish tank embedded into the wall looked down over rows of computers. The manager said the internet café staff was helping police with inquiries.

El-Hussein's former headteacher Peter Zinkernage told Danish public broadcaster DR that he was a "talented and smart student".



A classmate, named as Julie, told AFP: “He sometimes behaved pretty aggressively but otherwise he was nice and very smart. He had

good grades at school, he had friends and he was a good classmate.” She added: “He worked out in the yard, he was strong.”

**EDITOR’S COMMENT:** Two remarks: (1) "Copenhagen gunman" – again! (2) He was under surveillance – again! Since there is not yet a global definition on terrorism, perhaps we should add something to existing perigraphic definitions; something like: if victim exceed 100 or 1000 then those committing this action should be called terrorists"; if victims are 1-99 then we should call them "gunman/gunmen [women]. It is also of interest the discrepancy between what Danish PM quoted in public and the political correct line of global mass media on both sides of the ocean. Then we have to re-define the world "surveillance" and what goes along with that. Because the "we know them" is not enough and turned out to be a joke. In the aftermath of almost ALL major terrorism incidents the subjects involved "were known" to authorities. After more than two decates we are still unable to connect the dots in an effective and pre-emptive way!

### Another 'not-Islamic' attack in Denmark

Source: [http://acdemocracy.org/another-not-islamic-attack-in-denmark/?utm\\_source=Another+%27not-Islamic%27+attack+in+Denmark&utm\\_campaign=Denmark%2C+another+non+Islamic+attack&utm\\_medium=email](http://acdemocracy.org/another-not-islamic-attack-in-denmark/?utm_source=Another+%27not-Islamic%27+attack+in+Denmark&utm_campaign=Denmark%2C+another+non+Islamic+attack&utm_medium=email)



Feb 17 – The Islamist attacks in Copenhagen on Saturday were all but expected. The Danish police report claiming the 22 years old Danish born Muslim, Omar Abdel Hamid El-Hussein, was “a Lone Wolf.” He may have been the only shooter, but he was not alone. And he was not a wolf, nor was he “self radicalized.” He was a sheep inspired by repeated Islamist propaganda and incitement for jihad, targeting those who “offend” their prophet Mohammad, and the Jews.

“Cursing or mocking the Prophet is an act of apostasy, as all scholars concur, whether it is done seriously or in jest. Anyone who does this, Muslim or infidel, must be killed, **even if he repents**” [Emphasis added],” instructed Saudi Imam Issa Assiri in his televised sermon

that was posted on his Facebook page (and translated by MEMRI) in the aftermath of the Paris attacks on Charlie Hebdo and the Jewish supermarket.

El-Hussein was not a “self radicalized lone wolf, but a jihadist who was conditioned to respond to posting on social media calling on the “sons of Islam, who reside in Europe, America, Australia, France, and Denmark, to become ‘Lone Wolves’, to “light fires beneath the infidels feet.” Moreover, according to Danes, he had at least two coconspirators.

Still, Denmark’s Prime Minister, Thorning-Schmidt declared, “this is not



a conflict between Islam and the West...this is a conflict between the core values of our society and violent extremists.”

The Danes should have known better, but they continue to ignore the writings on the wall.

The Danish reporter and former chairman of the Free Press



Society, Lars Hedegaard, was not surprised. In 2010 he was found not guilty of “racism” charges, which were brought earlier that year against him for a comment he made in a party at his home that Muslims practice “honor killings.” Hedegaard argued in his defense that he was unaware that his comment would be published on a blog and eventually was found not guilty. But the threats to his life did not stop. In February 2014 he survived a shooting attempt on his life.

**Free expression in Denmark, as in most European countries, is limited by draconian libel and hate speech and hate crimes laws.**

These laws are written so broadly as to allow a suit by almost anyone who claims that he or she feels insulted or intimidated by a public statement. **The truth does not matter.** The prosecution is subjective and the judgment can be entirely based on the plaintiff’s misguided perception. Many European countries have similar low standards for defamation suits. Speaking one’s mind risks civil and criminal suits, especially since truth is not a defense. Threats of frivolous and costly lawsuits, terrorist threats and European Left leaning politics contributed to increased political correctness.

Mr. Hedegaard’s prosecution in 2010 came after the cowardly public apology by the Danish daily Politiken, for reprinting the Mohammed cartoons in 2008.

The newspaper’s mea culpa was not surprising. Earlier its publishers told this author the free expression was not the optimal approach to a potentially expensive suit.

Politiken’s apology was part of the settlement with a Saudi lawyer representing 94,923 of Muhammad’s descendants, who sued the paper for offending them. This submission not only encouraged Islamists everywhere, but also contributed to further political correctness towards Muslims.

A northern European Christian friend who did not wish to be named for fear of ending up on the “Inspire” magazine target list, wrote in despair,

“Do we really need more dead in the name of Islam here in the west? Are we all just supposed to believe lies about a few bewildered Muslims when they kill more and more people in the West? What will it take for our leaders to speak out on Islam’s war on us!” he asked.

My friend, a security expert, was wandering why the Café where the free speech debate took place and the Jewish synagogue, excepted targets for Islamists, were not properly guarded. **“This question should not be swept under the carpet. But as long as Denmark political and media elites refuse to acknowledge the Islamist threat, this will not be the last jihadi attack in Denmark,”** he added.

**A Look at Earlier Cases of Islamic Terrorism in Denmark**

Source: <http://abcnews.go.com/International/wireStory/earlier-cases-islamist-terrorism-denmark-28999395>



A police officer stands in front of the cultural center where an alleged shooter killed one person on Saturday in Copenhagen, Denmark, Monday, Feb. 16, 2015. The shooter was killed by police who believe he also shot a second person at a Jewish synagogue. (AP Photo/Michael Probst).

Feb 16 – Denmark has been in the cross-hairs of Islamic terrorists since the 2005 publication by newspaper Jyllands-Posten of 12 caricatures of the Prophet Mohammad that triggered riots in many Muslim countries. Yet, this weekend's attack in Copenhagen was the first fatal terrorism attack in the Scandinavian country in 30 years.

**Here's a look at previous foiled plots and major Islamic terrorism cases related to Denmark:**



2012

— Three men were arrested in Copenhagen on suspicion of plotting a terror attack after police found them with automatic weapons and ammunition.

2010

— Four Swedish residents were arrested in Copenhagen for planning a shooting spree against Jyllands-Posten's Copenhagen office.

— Chechen-born Loris Doukayev was lightly wounded when preparing a letter bomb that exploded in a Copenhagen hotel. Doukayev, a resident of Belgium, was suspected of assembling the device, which is believed to have been intended for Jyllands-Posten. No one else was injured.

— Three people were arrested in neighboring Norway, suspected of planning an alleged al-Qaida attack against Jyllands-Posten directly, or against people in Denmark because of the cartoons.

— A Somali man broke into the home of one of the prophet cartoonists, Kurt Westergaard, with



an ax. The artist escaped unharmed by locking himself inside a panic room.

2008

— The Danish Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, was targeted by a car bomb that killed six people outside the mission.

2007

— Two men were arrested in an anti-terror operation after Danish agents filmed them conducting a small test blast with triacetone triperoxide, or TATP, which was used by the suicide bombers who killed 52 London commuters. Authorities believe they were preparing a terrorist attack.

— Eight men, described as Islamic militants linked to leading al-Qaida figures, were arrested in Copenhagen suspected of preparing explosives for a terrorist attack in Denmark or abroad. Only two were charged for acquiring bomb-making material and conducting a test explosion using TATP. The six others were freed.

2006

— Seven men were arrested in Odense, central Denmark, when preparing explosives for an alleged bomb plot. Only four of the men were charged, of which three were found guilty by courts. Police said they found bomb-making manuals and a bottle of TATP.

2005

— Four men were arrested in suburban Copenhagen for taking part in a botched terrorism plot to blow up an unidentified target in Europe. The four were suspected of being linked to two men who were arrested in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo. The attack was aimed at forcing foreign troops to pull out of Iraq and Afghanistan.

1985

— A 27-year-old Algerian tourist was killed when a bomb exploded outside the

Terrorists strike in Denmark

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — Bombs tore open a U.S. airline office and damaged a synagogue and Jewish nursing home Monday in Copenhagen, a European capital that had previously escaped the recent international terrorist wave. Other suspected bombs were found before they could explode. Twenty-seven people were injured, at least three seriously, authorities said. Three Americans were among those who suffered minor injuries, the U.S. Embassy reported.

Police later announced they had taken six foreigners into custody for questioning in the bombings, but they did not disclose the detainees' identities.

In Beirut, Lebanon, an anonymous telephone caller told The Associated Press the attacks were carried out by the Shiite Muslim terrorist organization Islamic Jihad to avenge an Israeli raid on a southern Lebanese village Sunday. The claim could not be verified.

One bomb gutted the quarters of Northwest Orient Airlines near Copenhagen's Tivoli amusement park. Northwest Orient is the only American airlines with offices in the Danish capital.

Another attack, which some bystanders said involved two bombs, damaged the Copenhagen Synagogue and an adjacent Jewish home for the



Bomb blew down the doors at a synagogue in Copenhagen.

Copenhagen office of the North West Orient airline company. On the same day another bomb exploded at the entrance to the Copenhagen synagogue, but there were no casualties there.

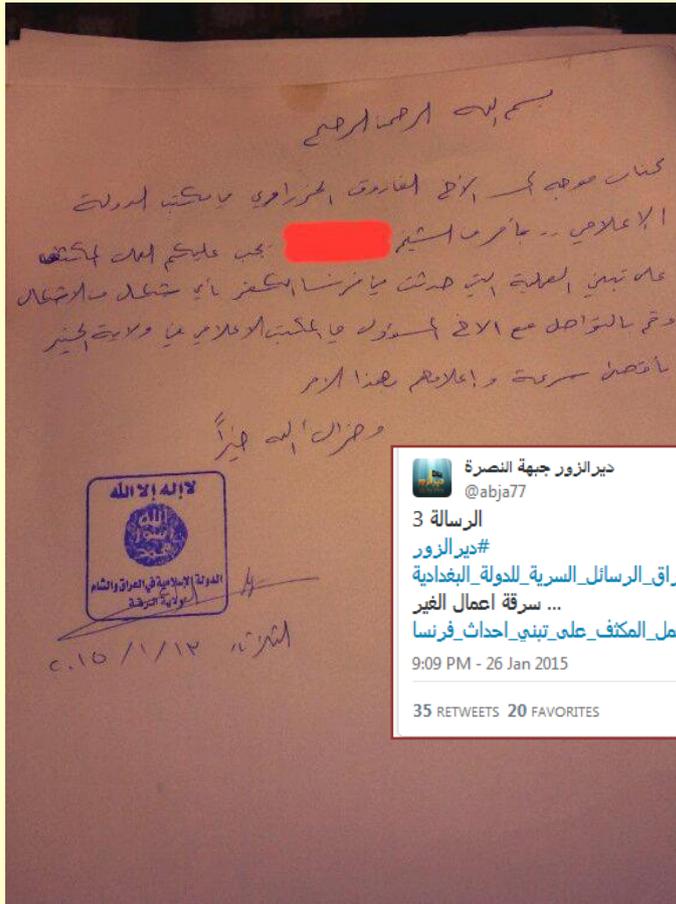


# ISIS Deserters Leak Alleged Orders From Militant Leaders

Source: <http://www.vocativ.com/world/isis-2/isis-leaks/>

Photos of 16 letters, allegedly sent by ISIS military commanders in Syria, were published by a Twitter account that claims to represent the rival Nusra Front (al-Qaeda affiliates) in Deir ez-Zor, Eastern Syria. The letters, posted with the hashtag #HackingTheSecretMessagesOfBaghdadiState, were allegedly leaked by ISIS deserters who joined Nusra Front. These letters include (unverified) commands written by commanders of several ISIS provinces in Syria, for militants fighting on the battlefields. All of the letters are dated and signed with the blue ink stamp of "The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria."

The letters include instructions for sending car bombs to a certain village and suicide bomber to kill a specific Nusra Front leader, as well as instructions for sieging and bombing the city of Deir ez-Zor. These letters even include an order to take responsibility for last month's terror attack in France. For the time being, ISIS has not broadcast a response and it's impossible to confirm the authenticity of these documents.



**Translation:** "To the brother Faruq al-Jazrawi in the information office



of the (Islamic) State...please work diligently to take responsibility for the operation in France, in every way possible way. Make contact with the brother who is responsible as soon as you can, he is in the information center of the Deir ez-Zor province. And pass him this issue.;" Stamp: "The Islamic State in Iraq and Syria, Raqqah province." (Jan. 13, 2015)

► Read more at source's URL.

## What Actually Causes American Fear of Islam and Muslims?

By Daniel Pipes

Source: <http://www.meforum.org/5039/what-causes-islamophobia>

An ambitious 81-page document, *Fear, Inc. 2.0: The Islamophobia Network's Efforts to Manufacture Hate in America*, just appeared from the Center for American Progress, a liberal Democratic organization. Unlike its first iteration, in which a group with a \$40-million annual budget and deep ties to big business had the nerve to claim that seven much smaller institutions were overpowering the country through their financial clout, this one looks at what the alleged "Islamophobia network" actually does.



The report, written by Matthew Duss, Yasmine



Taeb, Ken Gude, and Ken Sofer, makes for interesting reading. Its premise is that critics of Islamism (1) are really anti-Islamic and (2) have single-handedly distorted a the fundamental American value, namely a "basic respect for the rights of minority groups throughout the country." According to the CAP study, "the views of anti-Muslim actors stand in stark contrast to the values of most Americans."

By dint of hard work, however, "a well-funded, well-organized fringe movement can push discriminatory policies against a segment of American society by intentionally spreading lies while taking advantage of moments of public anxiety and fear." This effort "takes many shapes and forms": a general climate, cynical political efforts, and institutional policies. Despite some setbacks, continues the CAP

narrative, the network's efforts "continue to erode America's core values of religious pluralism, civil rights, and social inclusion."

Those fingered as part of this network (I am one) should be perversely proud of our accomplishment: Just a handful of lying individuals manage to subvert a core American value – and all this with what CAP itself estimated to be less than \$5 million a year!

But there is a more convincing reason why Americans fear Islam and Muslims. The news is filled almost daily and even several times daily with bulletins from one Islamist front or another. I hardly need rehearse the repertoire; just turn to the day's headlines. ISIS and the *Charlie Hebdo*-like massacre most dominate the news, but Islamists are all the time winning unfavorable attention for themselves by making aggressive cultural demands (say, wearing a face-covering burqa in the courtroom), pushing the superiority of Islam (don't dare say a negative word about Muhammad), or apologizing for some repulsive practice (such as honor killings or female genital mutilation).

Another way of putting it: **the United States hosts about as many Buddhists and Hindus combined as it does Muslims. Yet, when did Buddhists or Hindus try to change the existing order or engage in violence on behalf of their faiths? Who ever hears about them? Who fears them?**

Maybe it's Islamists who are prompting powerful and spontaneous responses through their threatening behavior. Maybe we critics are not "intentionally spreading lies" but honestly interpreting Islamist aggression and supremacism. Maybe CAP and its ilk should blame the fear of Islam less on us critics and more on the Islamists themselves.

*Daniel Pipes is president of the Middle East Forum.*

## The Invisible Hand Behind The Coup in Yemen

By Samuel Abady and Omar Fohihi

Source: [http://acdemocracy.org/the-invisible-hand-behind-the-coup-in-yemen/?utm\\_source=The+Invisible+Hand+Behind+Yemen%27s+Coup+&utm\\_campaign=The+Invisible+Hand+Behind+The+Coup+in+Yemen&utm\\_medium=email](http://acdemocracy.org/the-invisible-hand-behind-the-coup-in-yemen/?utm_source=The+Invisible+Hand+Behind+Yemen%27s+Coup+&utm_campaign=The+Invisible+Hand+Behind+The+Coup+in+Yemen&utm_medium=email)

Feb 16 – Over the last three years, media pundits accurately described Yemen as perched on the brink of chaos. No more. Now it has fallen off the cliff. **The key question is how this happened.**

**The short answer is corruption—deep-seated, pervasive corruption at the very heart of Yemen's government, made possible by Yemen's power structure,**







something naïve  
Westerners too often  
overlook or fail to  
understand.

**Yemen's Dual Power Structure**

Traditionally, power was exercised and distributed in Yemen via an informal patronage system run by tribal chiefs and regional leaders.<sup>1</sup> This

informal system did not disappear with the dissolution of Yemen's Mutawakkilite Kingdom in 1962, or unification of the northern Yemen Arab Republic and southern People's Democratic Republic of Yemen in 1990. Instead, today's Yemen features a dual structure: one formal, superficial, and essentially powerless,

and one informal, internal, and powerful. If a citizen needs a traffic sign on his street, he does not reach out to his parliamentary representative in Sana'a. He contacts his local tribal chief. That man exchanges favors with someone in government to get funds for the sign, ensuring the contract goes to a relative. Yemen's billionaire dictator, Ali Abdullah Saleh, exploited this informal system to keep himself

in power for thirty-three years, first as president of North Yemen in 1978, and after 1991, as president of a unified Yemen. He was the very definition of public corruption: the abuse of entrusted power for personal gain. He secured loyalty from regional leaders and tribal chiefs by doling out the spoils of public office and government lucre.

Other beneficiaries of his largess included imams, generals, merchants, and business elites. They pledged their support in exchange for position, paychecks, and kickbacks. Wikileaks published a 2005 diplomatic cable by then-U.S. Ambassador Thomas C. Krajeski who complained that Saleh gave tribal and military leaders free rein to "run their affairs with informal armies, courts, and economic

empires" and made "direct payments from the treasury" to these "tribal and military constituencies."

"Presumably, the verse from Qur'an 2:11, "Do not cause corruption on the earth," is not read aloud there."

Saleh packed Yemen's puppet parliament, military leadership, and security services with bought-and-paid-for loyalists when he first assumed office. Over the years, he put family members in charge everywhere, turning Yemen into a de-facto family enterprise,



complete with a \$120 million Al-Saleh mosque in Sana'a. (Presumably, the verse from Qur'an 2:11, "Do not cause corruption on the earth," is not read aloud there.)

**Hadi's Rise and Fall**

Abd Rabuh Mansur Hadi. Credit: Glenn Fawcett In 2012, Yemenis chaffing under decades of kleptocracy and inspired by the

Arab Spring, forced Saleh to step down. But not by popular uprising, as happened in Egypt and Tunisia. The Saudis saw to that, as they feared pro-democracy unrest might spread across the Arabian Peninsula. To keep Yemen from becoming the wind that starts a democracy sandstorm, they sponsored an initiative under the auspices of the Gulf Cooperation

Council (GCC), the Saudi-led alliance of six of the seven Arabian Peninsula states, save Yemen. By the terms of this deal, Saleh received immunity from prosecution and stepped down as President; Yemen's vice president, Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, stepped into Saleh's shoes; and Yemen's military was to be restructured.



Then, a surprising thing happened: instead of emulating Saleh, President Hadi, a fluent English-speaker educated in Britain on a military scholarship, openly backed Yemen's transition to a republican government, and tried to inject Yemen's formal democratic institutions with real authority, earning much praise in Washington.

It did not last. On January 20, the Houthis, a



Zaidi Shi'a militant group backed by Iran and hailing from northernmost Sa'adah province, entered the presidential complex after a brief armed standoff with Yemeni security forces. Two days later, Hadi was forced out and Yemen's parliament dissolved. As of today, Yemen has been without a functioning government for almost one month. The Houthis announced their intention to form a new, expanded legislature of 551 representatives led by an executive council of five, but tribal leaders from the southern provinces and Sunnis immediately rejected it.

The fall of Yemen's precarious government followed a recent chain of events that began in July 2014 when Hadi lifted petroleum subsidies, causing fuel prices to skyrocket. The Houthis exploited popular grievance against rising prices and erected protest tents in Sana'a as Houthi agitators, masquerading as the vanguard against official corruption, engaged in armed skirmishes with Yemeni forces led by long-time strongman, General Ali Mohsen al-Ahmar. Eventually, street battles erupted into open warfare. At least 340 people died as rebel Shi'a forces clashed with Yemen's Sunni fighters. Soon after, and with surprising ease, the Houthis took control of all of Sana'a, including military installations.

Jamal Benomar, U.N. special advisor to Yemen, presented a Peace and National

Partnership Agreement (PNPA) in hopes of ending the violence between Yemen's political factions. The PNPA stipulated withdrawal of Houthi forces once a new cabinet was selected and new constitution put in place. The Houthis signed the agreement and then promptly reneged on the deal. They kept their forces in Sana'a, rejected the draft constitution, and stormed the presidential palace. On January 22, President Hadi and his Prime Minister, Khaled Bahah, resigned. With Houthi guns at their backs, the Yemeni cabinet then dissolved. In short order, the Houthis achieved a complete coup d'etat.

This baffled Yemen observers in the West. Since 2004, the Houthis had intermittently battled local Salafi groups and Yemen's armed forces, but never achieved their stated goal of

controlling Sa'adah, Yemen's northernmost province. Iran provided military assistance, but the northern Shi'a group was unable to strong arm its way to autonomy in Sa'adah. Then suddenly, they emerged from the rugged borders of Sa'adah and marched all the way south to Sana'a and its surrounding cities. What was unthinkable but months ago, the Houthis achieved almost overnight, and with little effort.

### An Alliance of Convenience

How was a regional, sectarian-motivated, minority insurgent group suddenly able to extend its reach to the capital, acquiring sufficient power to upend a settlement reached under United Nations auspices and stage a complete coup?

American journalist Adam Baron hit the nail on the head:

*"As the months dragged on, the Houthis gradually extended their area of influence toward Sanaa through a mix of fighting prowess and skillful tribal outreach, simultaneously solidifying their position as a mainstream political actor while building an alliance of convenience with their former adversaries in Saleh's party."*

The key phrase here is "alliance of convenience." Western



journalists tend to see the Arab world through an Iraqi lens and reduce regional turmoil to the dominant Sunni-Shi'a conflict. In fact, Yemen is less defined by the sectarian divide than other parts of the Middle East. Thus, while both the deposed dictator and the Houthis adhere to Sadism, an offshoot of Shi'a Islam, their new embrace is decidedly not based on sectarian brotherly love. To the contrary, not long ago, Saleh was the Houthis' sworn enemy. He warned his American patrons at the State Department the Houthis were a dangerous, crypto-Hezbollah separatist group. From 2004 to 2010, he waged six wars against them, killing thousands. His new partnership with them is, as Don Corleone might say, "only business"—a gangster-like alliance of mutual convenience between former enemies.

It was clear all along to those who understood the inner workings of Yemen's real political power, i.e., its tribal-based patronage system, that the U.S.-blessed, GCC-sponsored blueprint to bring about a peaceful transfer of power following the Arab Spring was doomed to fail. While the GCC initiative spurred Saleh to leave the Presidential Palace, it contained a fatal flaw: it left all of Saleh's loyalists and family members in place. Thus, Saleh's fall did nothing to eclipse his informal power.

Once Hadi took over as President, Saleh's loyalists became his proxies in the new post-dictatorship regime. The anti-democratic Houthis, propelled by the Arab Spring and GCC initiative, cynically added an anti-corruption theme to what previously had been their purely sectarian-motivated conflict with Yemen's central government. Neither the deposed Saleh nor the Houthis acting alone had sufficient power to topple the new government, especially under the gaze of the international community. Acting together, however, was another story. When it became clear the Houthis were willing to fight their way into Sana'a, then Saleh embraced his former enemies and made the devil's bargain, hoping to sabotage the regime that succeeded him and return to power.

As Human Rights Watch researcher Belkis Wille wrote: "[Saleh] played a vital role in securing the tribal alliances that allowed [Houthi] fighters to leave Sa'adah, their northern stronghold, and occupy Sana'a, the capital, last September." In so doing, Houthi insurgents marched into Sana'a with Saleh and all his cronies on their shoulders. This explains

the near total submission to invading Houthis in Yemen's capital. Reports leaked out that Saleh-allied security forces were ordered not to raise their arms, but instead, obey direct orders from Houthi commanders. As a result, Sana'a fell in only two days.

### The Plague of Corruption

The brutal reality is that Yemen simply has no real democratic tradition, even though it has long had the trappings of democracy, i.e., a constitution, multi-party system, bicameral parliament, and court system. These were in place during Saleh's dictatorship. Yet, Yemen's informal power system prevailed over its formal system; democracy was but a showpiece undermined by rampant corruption. Average Yemenis always understood that democratic institutions mattered little in comparison to the tribal system with its patronage and exchange of benefits that, in Western societies, are regarded as graft.

Is it any wonder then that Transparency International, the worldwide anti-corruption organization, lists Yemen near the bottom of its famous Corruption Perceptions Index. Last summer, its affiliate in the Levant, the Lebanese Transparency Association, issued a report in which it declared, "Political corruption is a chronic disease spread throughout the Arab World," citing samples and data from Yemen, among other Middle East states.

***"This makes a transition to true democracy unlikely, if not impossible, in the foreseeable future."***

Further attempts by the international community, including the UN, to trick Yemen's political factions into forming a real democracy through dialog are doomed to fail, just as the GCC initiative and UN-sponsored PNPA failed. Yemen's long-standing informal system will continue to dominate and direct the transfer of power. This makes a transition to true democracy unlikely, if not impossible, in the foreseeable future.

Historian Robert Payne, author of *The Corrupt Society*, put it bluntly: "Corruption needs to be fought on all fronts with the same vigor and urgency as fighting a plague. It must be rooted out." Yemen has no hope of inaugurating a real democracy unless—and until—Saleh's loyalists are purged entirely from Yemen's government, military,



and security services, and the Houthis ousted from power. Otherwise, any so-called democratic government going forward will be

like the one in place over the last two decades: merely a facade.

**Reference**

1. April Longley Alley, "The Rules of the Game: Unpacking Patronage Politics in Yemen," Middle East Journal (2010): 386

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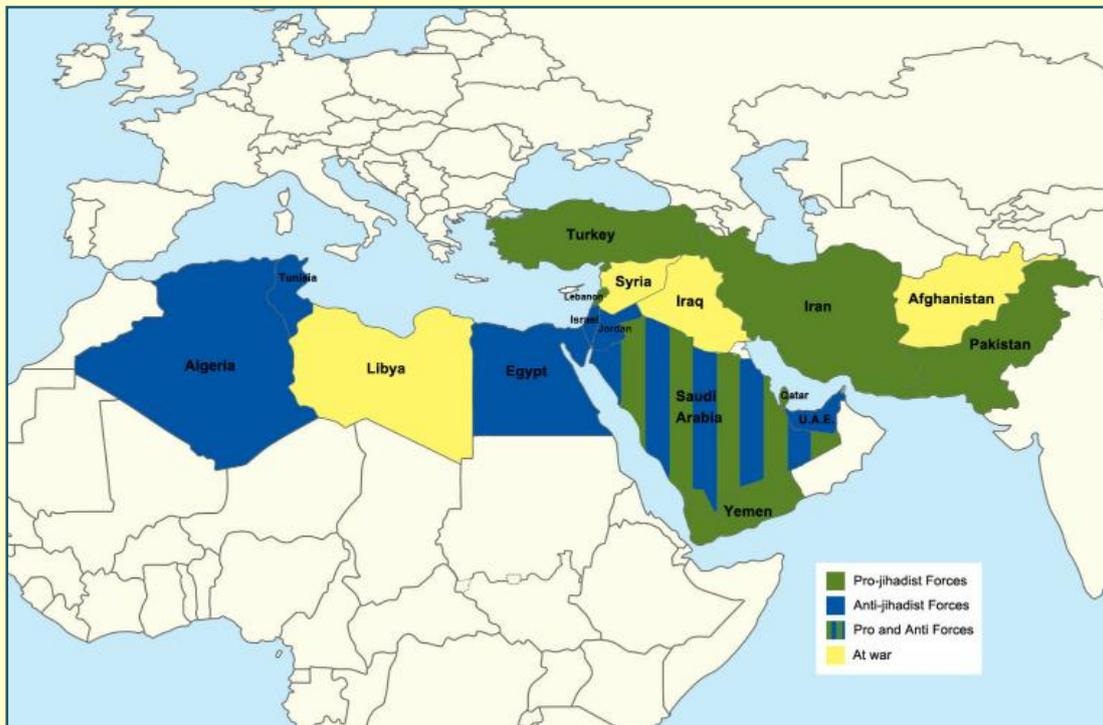
*Omar Abdullah al-Fotihi, a Yemeni national from Sana'a, is a 2014 graduate of Earlham College where he earned a B.A. in Politics. He is currently working with Samuel Abady on a documentary film about democracy in the Arab world*

**ISIS expands its activities in North Africa**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150218-isis-expands-its-activities-in-north-africa>

Feb 18 – The recent beheadings of twenty-one Egyptian Coptic Christians by Islamic State (ISIS)-linked militants in Libya prompted the Egyptian government to launch an air assault

**Libya, Egypt, and Algeria.** Several militant groups in these countries have pledged allegiance to ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi, although U.S. officials cannot



on ISIS camps in the Libyan coastal city of Darna. **The beheadings in Libya reflects the progress ISIS has made from its initial stronghold in Syria and Iraq to influencing events in North Africa, including parts of**

confirm to what degree these groups coordinate attacks with ISIS leadership. U.S. officials have, however, acknowledged the connection between ISIS's ability



to take advantage of weak, failing states such as Syria and Iraq and the group's movement into North Africa.

Libya has been in the process of disintegration since the civil war that ousted Moammar

borders Israel and the Gaza Strip. Attacks in North Sinai escalated after the military removed the Muslim Brotherhood's Mohammed Morsi from power in 2013. Since then, several militant groups have declared



Gadhafi from power in November 2011. In August, the newly elected government was forced to flee Tripoli to the eastern city of Tobruk as a coalition of Islamic and tribal militias, calling itself Libya Dawn, has taken over the capital city. Libya now has two prime ministers, two governments, and two parliaments: the internationally recognized government is in Tobruk, and the Islamist Libya Dawn – backed by Qatar and Turkey – in Tripoli.

It should be noted that words like “prime minister,” “government,” and “parliament” are used loosely here, since neither of the two governments has any sway beyond a few city blocks in Tobruk and Tripoli, respectively. Libya no longer exists as a unitary political unit, and different parts of the country are controlled by different armed militias.

The unending war among the armed militias has driven hundreds of thousands of people out of their homes, and the human misery, massive dislocation, and total absence of a central authority have made **Libya** a fertile ground for ISIS. The group announced its operations in Libya last October, and the Libyan interior minister Omar al-Sinki – he is a minister in the Tobruk government — reported that al-Baghdadi appointed Abu Talha, a Tunisian, to lead the ISIS faction in Tripoli.

The **Egyptian** government is also battling an insurgency in the Sinai Peninsula, which

their allegiance to ISIS, with, according to Yahoo News, one group calling itself Sinai Province of the Islamic State. The group claimed responsibility for a series of attacks last month on Egyptian military posts.

ISIS has inspired several radical groups in **Algeria**, and even led some of them to split away from the North African-based al-Qaeda in the Islamic Maghreb (AQIM). Algerian Soldiers of the Caliphate, led by a veteran al-Qaeda commander, kidnapped French hiker Herve Gourdel last September, and in an ISIS type operation, released a video of Gourdel's beheading. Algeria, which experiences a bitter and bloody 10-year war against indigenous Islamists beginning in 1992, has since launched several successful counterattacks against the group.

Earlier this month, thirty-two members of the Oqba ibn Nafaa brigade, a group with ties to both al-Qaeda and ISIS, were arrested for plotting to attack civilian and military sites around Tunisia, including the Interior Ministry. The spokesman for the ministry, Mohamed Ali Aroui, said some of those arrested had traveled to battlefronts abroad, notably Syria. Like Western counterterrorism officials, Tunisian authorities are now monitoring those returning from Syria.





## ISIS plans to invade Europe through Libya – report

Source: <http://rt.com/news/233335-isis-islamic-libya-europe/>

Feb 18 – **ISIS' plans to conquer Europe via Libya have been revealed in letters seen by an anti-terrorism group.** Owing to its perfect location on the continental doorstep, the terrorists plan to ferry fighters from North Africa across the Mediterranean.

The plans, analyzed by anti-terrorism British think tank Quillum, outline a strategy to illegally ferry fighters across the sea from Libya **into southern Europe, into ports such as Italy's southernmost island of Lampedusa, less than 300 miles (483km) away.**

Libya "has a long coast and looks upon the



southern Crusader states, which can be reached with ease by even a rudimentary boat," an Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL) propagandist says in the letters seen by Quillum, according to the Telegraph.

That information originates from an IS supporter using the moniker Abu Ibrahim al-Libim. The propagandist is believed to be a strong force in IS recruitment online, with a focus on Libya.

The Telegraph could not independently confirm his identity, but the online recruiter is believed by analysts to be a great inspirer of troops and is widely-read.

"Twitter has shut down Libim's accounts several times and each time he starts a new one he gets thousands of followers very

quickly, which is typical of an influential [IS] affiliate," Charlie Winter, researcher for the Quillum Foundation, told the newspaper.

The plans Libim reveals revolve around posing as illegal immigrants, to then start an all-out attack on southern Europe by seeding chaos and bloodshed. The terrorists reportedly hope to flood Libya with other fighters from Syria and Iraq, with a whole army at the ready to invade.

**"We will conquer Rome, by Allah's permission,"** he says in a Sunday video depicting the beheading of 21 Egyptian Christian guest workers, the video that led to Egypt organizing a bombing campaign on militant positions in Libya. He also describes the country as having "immense potential" for the terrorist group, while making references to the spoils of war left after the ouster of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi in 2011 – tons of weapons, ammunition and oil.

**Libim continues to explain how illegal immigration across into Italy is "huge in number" and that "if this was even partially exploited and developed strategically, pandemonium could be wrought in the southern European states and it is even possible that there could be a closure of shipping lines and targeting of Crusader ships and tankers."**

The video and the letters come shortly after renewed calls in the West to do something about Libya's security problem. President Obama's strategy, for one, depended heavily on a president forced to step down recently. Now, the country's security is at an all-time low, and the various factions and jihadist groups vying for control of the oil-rich state have plans to remake Europe in that image.

And owing to Libya's vast desert swaths and porous borders with sub-Saharan Africa, the country has long been a firm favorite for trafficking people into Europe.

However, after the fall of Gaddafi in 2011, Libya's status as a terrorist hub shot through the roof and, according to the documents, this could be a perfect country for an all-out incursion into southern Europe.

Security bells are ringing, especially in Italy, which saw 2,164 illegal migrants rescued in the space of 24 hours over the



weekend. It could now be faced with many that are terrorists, according to Egyptian Ambassador to London Nasser Kamel. *"Those boat people who go for immigration purposes and try to cross the Mediterranean ... in the next few weeks, if we do not act together, they will be boats full of terrorists also."*

Just as these assessments came to light, Italy issued its own statement, outlining just how great a risk there is of Libyan militants merging with the IS. On Wednesday its Foreign Minister Paolo Gentiloni spoke of an *"evident risk"* and that time for Libya was *"running out"*. He called for *"a change of pace"* from the international community.

conquered by the group now adhere to its strict form of Islam, complete with executions.

Navigating Libya's terrorist circles is also a daunting task: some are allied with the IS, others with Al-Qaeda. All are fiercely anti-government, though some have helped install a new government in Tripoli, after banishing the internationally-recognized one to Tobruk in the east.

*"In terms of the demographics of [IS] support in Libya, we see a lot in common with its base of support in Iraq and Syria – many of its fighters are young, disfranchised men who have only bought into ISIL's brand of Islamist zealotry because they are looking to forcibly empower*



Migrants at the Sicilian harbour of Pozzallo, February 15, 2015 (Reuters / Antonio Parrinello)



IS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has openly been claiming Libya for his 'caliphate' recently. While still not completely submerged, the country is fast on its way, as whole cities

*themselves in the penetrating absence of the state,"* Winter explains.

*"The risks Europe faces from ISIL pre-eminence in Libya are substantial."*

The onus would appear to be on the West to do something security-wise – especially in places like Italy. But that country is already facing a fierce backlash from UN's refugee agency, the UNHCR, for seemingly caring more about implementing stringent security policies on immigrants, as opposed to caring for people's safety when they drown just off the coast trying to make it to a better life.

More than 207,000 people have attempted the crossing to Europe over the Mediterranean Sea this year – *"almost three times the previous known high of about 70,000 in 2011,"* the UN pointed out. That year saw a spike on account of the Libyan civil war.



## The Hollywood Pirate Returning to Somalia

Source: <http://www.newsweek.com/2015/02/27/pirates-arabian-sea-hollywood-barkhad-abdi-captain-phillips-307314.html>



NATO has wiped out piracy in Somalia, meaning that unlicensed foreign vessels are plundering the country's fish. Tony Karumba/Rick Maiman/Getty

Piracy was good to Omar Hassan. The skinny Somali fisherman in his mid-twenties throws his head back and rolls his eyes. "There were way too many fish," he laughs.

Five years ago, Somali pirates were attacking foreign ships in the Gulf of Aden and Arabian sea on a near-daily basis. Their cold-blooded assaults scared off the unlicensed European and Asian fishing vessels that for years had been pillaging Somalia's seas. Under the pirates, Somalis felt safe to fish anywhere, and marine stocks grew.

Hassan started fishing in 2000, aged 10 – it is all the only trade he knows. But last month, he quit. Piracy is now dead, thanks to a multilateral effort to stamp it out, and the unlicensed foreign fishing vessels are back. Just as piracy was good to the fishermen of Somalia, Hassan says, Nato's \$75m anti-piracy task force has been good to those foreigners wishing to plunder her seas.

The conditions Hassan describes today are almost exactly the same as those 10 years ago that drove Somalis to attack foreign fishing vessels in an attempt to recoup some of their losses, giving birth to a multi-billion dollar piracy industry. By 2005, according to the UN, Somalia was losing \$300m to illegal fishing

every year. The Federal Republic of Somalia has the longest coastline on mainland Africa, but now, artisanal fishing is not a viable income stream, according to residents in the semi-autonomous state of Puntland, the region at the tip of the horn of East Africa.

"I'm jobless," Hassan says, "and I'm not the only one. Our options are either to become a charcoal maker, a pirate, to join al-Shabaab [the Islamist military group], or to starve or beg." I ask if the rebirth of piracy is really an option, and he looks glum. "As long as NATO is there, it's a dead end. If they're not, then it becomes an option. NATO? We can't take on that."

### Piracy on the Silver Screen

Somalian piracy got the Hollywood treatment in 2013, when director Paul Greengrass presented the 2009 hijacking of the US-flagged Maersk Alabama in a blockbuster film *Captain Phillips* starring Tom Hanks and Barkhad Abdi. Abdi's skeletal frame and protruding teeth made him the spitting image of the real-life pirate, Abduwali Muse. But while Abdi walked the red carpets picking up a BAFTA and an Oscar nomination, Muse languished in a





US prison cell, making history as the first person charged with piracy in an American court in over a century. The fates of these two Somali men, both infants when the ongoing civil war started in 1991, diverged the day Abdi escaped the country to Yemen and then Minnesota. Muse remained in Somalia as the country descended further into anarchy. Seventeen years later, he turned to piracy to survive.

When it came out, Greengrass's movie was criticised in Africa, for failing "to humanise the pirates by exposing the real lives of these young men, and the reasons behind the choices they make", as the Somali development organisation Adeso says. In the US, the actual crew members of the ship in question criticised the film for hijacking the truth in favour of a simplistic 'good versus evil' narrative. They said that the film's hero, Captain Phillips, was, in truth, a toad, who recast himself as the ship's saviour. As for the pirate, Abduwali Muse – was he truly evil or was his fate sealed by the environment into which he had been born?

The development agency recognises that charity can be demeaning – it's Somali founder, Fatima Jibrell, used to chastise herself for being "a professional beggar" – so only gives unconditional aid in emergencies. Instead, long-term programmes address policy, encourage civil rights movements, provide vocational training and pay communities to rehabilitate their ecosystems. In January, Adeso arranged Abdi's first trip back to Somalia since he left as a young man, as an ambassador for their work. While there, he reconnected with uncles, aunts, cousins and the region's famous camels' milk.

I first met Abdi in Nairobi, ground zero for humanitarian aid missions in Somalia. He was full of hope, with "a vision of a peaceful country, with schools, hospitals, libraries, where I can raise my children and live in peace". The threat of piracy has gone away for now. Al-Shabaab has been weakened by US and African Union operations, and Somalis are returning. Towns in Puntland, where much of Adeso's work is focused, are a curious medley of teachers from Islington, cockney accents,



Barkhad Abdi, second from left, won a BAFTA for his portrayal of Somali pirate Abduwali Muse in the film Captain Phillips. Jasin Boland/AP

Last year, Abdi decided to use his profile to raise awareness of issues in Somalia, becoming a Goodwill Ambassador for Adeso.

Westernised children re-learning the rules of the playground, and the hardened few who never left.

Puntland, where Abdi's family hails from, was for a time, synonymous with piracy. The risk of kidnapping remains high today. Its economic capital, Bosaso,



crowns Somalia's north-eastern point, where the Gulf of Aden widens into the Arabian Sea, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes linking Europe to India and the Middle East via the Suez Canal. Its waters contain some of the world's most fecund fishing grounds. And for almost a decade it had no government. These factors, amongst others, made Puntland ripe for the perfect storm. Might Abdi and Muse's futures not have been so different, had one of them not got out? I travelled with Abdi to find out.

### Modern pirates

Abdi was a limousine driver when he applied for a role in *Captain Phillips*. With no previous acting experience, he and the younger brothers of two close friends practised and performed together throughout the casting process. They were cast as the three leading pirates.

At the time Abdi left Somalia in 1992, seafaring pirates, in popular imagination at least, wore eye-patches and had hooks for hands. Abdi's father, a schoolteacher, was working in Yemen when Somalia's then dictator Siad Barre fled in 1991. While Abdi, his mother and siblings hid at home in the Somali capital Mogadishu, dominant clans turned on weaker clans and the country went to war. "Childhood was put on hold," Abdi recalls. His father in Yemen, it took them a year to secure safe passage out.

Eventually, they got a lift in the back of a cargo truck to an Ethiopian town 400km away prophetically named Mustahil, meaning "impossible" in Arabic. From there, with a dozen or so family members, they hitchhiked more than 1,000km to Bosaso. They waited in the port town for a month, before sailing to Yemen, where Abdi went to a local school. After seven years in Yemen, the family moved to the United States. Abdi now enjoys speaking Somali, Arabic and English, but, at the time, being torn away from the comfort of his native language was hard. As a refugee, he says: "You're not normal any more. You're an outsider. You don't belong."

Abdi's family built new lives while Somalia crumbled. Rule of law evaporated, both on land and at sea. Warlords filled the vacuum. The country's 2,000-mile stretch of turquoise water became a dumping and pillaging ground. Ships swept in to offload millions of tons of toxic waste, including radioactive material, while foreign fishing vessels with no regard for sustainability poached in waters that teemed

with fish, decimating the breeding grounds. Warlords tolerated the over-fishing and dumping in exchange for a supply of weapons. The story goes that Somalia's struggling fishermen eventually said enough was enough, and armed themselves to fight the foreign ships laying waste to their seas. What began as a coastguard operation became a thriving hijack and ransom business that took nearly half a billion dollars between 2005 and 2012, averaging \$2.7m per ship. Any vessel was fair game if it had the capacity to pay. Keffiyeh-clad, gun-toting Somalis struck fear into insurance brokers in the City of London and brought piracy's image up to date.

### The first Somali

Abdi now lives in Los Angeles, in an apartment he shares with a friend from Minnesota who works as a chef. He is the first Somali to make it in Hollywood. Since *Captain Phillips*, he has played a character inspired by Joseph Kony, the Central African warlord of the day, in *Hawaii Five-0*, and a double agent in this year's release, *Eye in the Sky*, alongside Helen Mirren and Alan Rickman. But for all his success he is delightfully true to his roots. He is more expressive in the guttural tones of his mother-tongue than in English. At mealtimes, he hunches low over his food and shovels it into his mouth with his right hand in the local tradition. And, as any true Somali, he adores camels and barter gamely for fresh camel's milk on the roadside. He hangs out of the car window and sings in Somali to the puzzled-looking dromedaries that we pass.

At a vocational school supported by Adeso in the town of Badhan, the teacher finds out who Abdi is and howls with laughter. "The film should have shown more of the drivers [of piracy], because it's not just a one-dimensional perspective," he says after his laughter subsides. "We're real people and we have real problems." As if to demonstrate this, his pupils, all budding electricians, encircle Abdi and fire questions at him. They ask not about Tom Hanks, but about business in Nairobi, the importance of education, and, primarily, their prospects of migrating abroad. Abdi tells them about the dangers of human trafficking and advises them not to go: "There's nothing there for you. Your life's not worth the risk."

Human smuggling is one of the few sectors that is growing here to



provide opportunities for jobless youths. On the road into Bosaso from Ethiopia, columns of young men and women walk, day and night, towards the city, plying same route to Yemen that Abdi did over 20 years ago. The clothes they wear represent all they have. The high likelihood of getting mugged means that many sew their money into collars or hemlines. Others send it ahead via transfers. The sun burns out any clouds within hours of dawn but they walk on regardless. Some are children. "It used to just be the young men. Now, it's a lot of women," says Adeso's Jibrell. She has heard plenty of horror stories; Libyan traffickers called one Somali mother threatening to execute her son unless she produced thousands of dollars. Parents in Somalia watch their children like hawks, to pre-empt their flight. But healthy, ambitious young men and women would rather risk death at sea to find work if the other option is, literally, nothing.

hitchhiked and walked 1,500km. I ask if it was hard. She gives me a blank look as if to say, you're really asking that? "I have never left my neighbourhood before."

One of her brothers gave her 5,000 Ethiopian birr (\$250), to "do something with your life". She gave her eldest child to her husband's family, the twins to her parents, found a truck heading east, and left. Bandits robbed her of her savings in Somaliland, and, after a few weeks begging in Hargeisa, she got a ride 200km to Burao. From there, she walked most of the 800km to Bosaso. She met some other Oromo on the way. Five of them had one 1.5-litre water bottle between them. They made it last three days at a time, either using it to wet their tongues or drinking at the very most two capfuls. Now in Bosaso, she's living in a derelict house on the edge of a refugee camp fenced by dead thorn branches and strewn with wisps of weather-worn plastic. Her next stop: Yemen.



Somali women prepare to offload the catch of the day from fishermen, at the Bossaso Harbour in Puntland, Somalia, January 29, 2015. Karel Prinsloo/Adeso

**Point of no return**

I meet a 27-year-old single mother of three children, Fatuma Ahmed Musa, who grew up in the eastern highlands of Ethiopia on the outskirts of Harar, an ancient holy city of Islam. Millions of Oromo have fled Ethiopia in the last two decades, citing persecution by the regime. Musa's husband ran away without warning while she was giving birth to twins. She later heard he went to Saudi Arabia. He has sent back money for his parents, but nothing for her. Unable to find work to support her family, after a year of breast-feeding the twins she decided her only option was to leave. With flawless skin and delicate hands wearing a green diamanté-studded bui-bui, a piece of cloth worn as a shawl, Musa doesn't look like she's just

An hour's drive out of Bosaso is the village El Ayo. A few kilometres north of its small concrete cuboids and crumbling stone walls, smugglers have suspended plastic sheeting on poles to form a makeshift shelter. The community believes human smuggling is haram under Islam, so the business was forced out onto what two years ago was pristine beach. Ethiopians, Somalis and other African migrants stay here while they wait for a motorboat to make the treacherous 300km journey across the Gulf of Aden. Passage costs \$250 when the sea is calm January to June, and \$350 when the risk of capsizing is high.

This is where Musa is headed. If she reaches Yemen, she doesn't know what she'll do. The only thing she knows is that she can't return home: "I don't want to go back to my children empty-handed." She



is prepared never to see them again if it means she can send money back to support them.

### Where are the fish?

At the port in Bosaso, fishermen are landing the daily catch on a small beach by the dock. A 20-ft motorboat cuts its engine 20m from the shore. Women race towards them and fight over the few fish, arms aloft and bright jilbabs dilated on the water's surface. On the beach, a smartly-dressed female fish trader carrying a shiny black handbag calls out: "Where are the fish?" She used to sell to international charities, but not any more because of high prices and poor availability. "This is the way it is now," a fisherman tells her. Twenty years ago, \$10 would have bought 10kg of tuna, he adds. Now it's \$40 for the same.

Fishermen all attribute the drop in fish stocks – one of the few lifelines left in Somalia – to the return of the unlicensed foreign fishing vessels. They are "pretty nasty", a maritime security expert says. They obscure or change their boat's names and numbers, swap their flags, and turn off transponders. "They'll breach the law all the time to get business, and that extends from the South Koreans to the Chinese and Taiwanese. Other major players are Spanish and French. If they can get away with it, they'll do it," he says, on condition of anonymity. And where easier to get away with it than Somalia's 400,000 square miles of tuna-rich waters, where Nato's European and American anti-piracy missions are turning a blind eye?

Coastguard officials and fishing associations in Puntland say they have repeatedly requested support from Nato in combatting illicit fishing, but to no avail. International anti-piracy vessels are equipped with fantastically sophisticated surveillance equipment, which national or private enforcement organisations could never afford. "But there is no information sharing," the security professional says. It doesn't help, he adds, that different Somali states issue different licenses for what is, by international law, one zone.

Mohamed Abdirahman Osman, Chairman of the Puntland Fishery Association, is irate: "We've been asking Nato for two years! Why can they get a mandate to deal with piracy in one month, when are people are dying and we're losing our livelihoods? They only care about their own interests."

"Actions to counter illegal fishing would breach the scope and capabilities of the mission," a Nato official says. Its members are, however, aware of the pressing issue.

Fishermen in Puntland say the majority of illicit fishing vessels in Somali waters are Yemeni or Iranian. Others say the trawlers, which damage breeding grounds by scraping the ocean floor, are largely South Korean. What are believed to be thousand-ton motherships hover on the edge of the Economic Exclusion Zone, which extends 200 miles off-shore. Smaller boats venture three miles from the shore, using drag nets to encircle schooling fish.

Osman of the Fishery Association shows me a video. In it, men on eight small skiffs surround a net they are pulling in. Metre-long milkfish burst out of the water in arcs, some making good their bid for freedom by jumping over the boats. There are perpetually 20 or so fish flying above the water's surface. The men struggle to contain the catch, batting fish back whenever they fly past. Osman claims the video shows Yemenis fishing illegally in Somalia's waters, but this is impossible to verify.

### In hot water

Hassan, the former fisherman, says he was fishing in Ga'an when a 50ft-long fishing vessel drew near. Gunmen onboard shouted, "Move, or you're dead," training guns on him. They were Somalis from Hassan's community. "We see each other at restaurants, we drink tea together. I'm full of anger, that's why I ran away," he says. Asked if the unlicensed fishing vessels still use jets of boiling water to keep Somalis away, he scoffs: "Hot water is old technology. Now, they have their own army who are fearless and shoot you for their salary."

Fishermen allege that the corruption – illegal licensing agreements, protection rackets, facilitation of unlicensed fishing through graft – starts at the top, with government ministers and clan elders. Colonel Mohamed Ali Hashi, commander of the port police, denies this. He admits, however, that unlicensed vessels employ armed Somalis to protect them. Nato may have stopped piracy but inadvertently promoted illegal fishing, he nods. He is fighting a multimillion dollar unregulated fishing industry with an annual budget of less than \$10,000. "People volunteer, there's no uniform, no fuel, nothing."



On our last morning, Abdi and I stand at the same docks from which he left 23 years ago. Somalia's maritime security has come full circle, back to where it was before piracy began. Could Abdi's life have looked more like Muse's, had he not left? "If your environment is

bad, it's really hard to be good," he admits. And Somalia today is fractured. What would have become of Abdi, had he stayed? "I can't picture what I would have been." He pauses. "Now? I'm a person who has somewhere to go back to."

## Nonsense about terrorism's 'root causes'

By Peter Bergen

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2015/02/19/opinion/bergen-terrorism-root-causes/>

The Obama administration this week hosted a three-day conference on "Countering Violent Extremism," which is a government euphemism for how best to deal with Islamist terrorism.

**Already a predictable tsunami of nonsense has washed over us about the "root causes" of terrorism. We have heard from Obama administration officials and even the President himself that terrorism has something to do with lack of opportunities and poverty.** Obama said on Wednesday that "we have to address grievances terrorists exploit, including economic grievances."

He said, "when millions of people -- especially youth -- are impoverished and have no hope for the future, when corruption inflicts daily humiliations on people, when there are no outlets by which people can express their concerns, resentments fester. The risk of instability and extremism grow. Where young people have no education, they are more vulnerable to conspiracy theories and radical ideas..."

The President did acknowledge that terrorists can be rich like **Osama bin Laden**, who was the son of a Saudi construction magnate who attended the top high school and the best university in Saudi Arabia. It's hard to imagine someone with more opportunities. Think the Trump family Saudi-style, minus the bling, and throw in a deep admiration for the Taliban.

But in fact Osama bin Laden is more the rule than the exception. Take **Mohamed Atta**, the son of an Egyptian lawyer, who had worked on a doctorate in, of all things, urban preservation at a German university and who led the 9/11 attacks. Or the present leader of al Qaeda, **Ayman al Zawahiri**, a surgeon who comes from a leading Egyptian family that counts ambassadors, politicians and prominent clerics amongst its ranks.

Nearer to home we can also point to the Fort Hood shooter, **Maj. Nidal**

**Hasan**, who was not only an officer in the U.S. Army and a psychiatrist, but is also from a comfortably middle-class family in Virginia.

Let's also add to the mix **Faisal Shahzad**, who tried to blow up a bomb-laden SUV in Times Square on May 1, 2010. He had obtained an MBA in the United States and had worked as a financial analyst for the Elizabeth Arden cosmetics company. His father was one of the top officers in the Pakistani military.

These are not the dispossessed. They are the empowered.

**"Who becomes a terrorist?" turns out, in many cases, to be much like asking, "Who owns a Volvo?"**

Indeed, **New America has studied the backgrounds of some 250 U.S.-based militants since 9/11 who have been indicted in or convicted of some kind of jihadist terrorist crime. They are on average middle class, reasonably well-educated family men with kids. They are, in short, ordinary Americans.**

Similarly, in his important 2004 book "Understanding Terror Networks," psychiatrist Marc Sageman, a former CIA case officer, examined the **backgrounds of 172 militants who were part of al Qaeda or a similar group. Just under half were professionals; two-thirds were either middle or upper class and had gone to college; indeed, several had doctorates.**

In a 2006 study, Swati Pandey and this author examined the **educational background of 79 terrorists responsible for five of**



the worst anti-Western terrorist attacks of the modern era -- the World Trade Center bombing in 1993, the bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa in 1998, the 9/11 attacks, the Bali nightclub bombings in 2002, and the London bombings on July 7, 2005.

We found that more than half of the terrorists had attended college, making them as well-educated as the average American. Two of our sample had doctoral degrees, and two others had begun working toward their doctorates.

**None of them had attended a madrassa.**

Of course, large-scale insurgent groups such as ISIS and the Taliban recruit foot soldiers who join the cause to get a paycheck. **But the people running these organizations are in it for ideological reasons.**

#### An optimistic view

The diagnosis that poverty, lack of education or lack of opportunities have much to do with terrorism requires a fundamentally optimistic view of human nature. This diagnosis leads to the prognosis that all we need to do to solve the terrorism problem is to create societies that are less poor, better educated and have more opportunities.

The fact is, working stiffs with few opportunities and scant education are generally too busy getting by to engage in revolutionary projects to remake society. And history, in fact, shows us that **terrorism is generally a bourgeois endeavor**. This was just as true of the Russian anarchists of the late 19th century as it was of the German Marxists of the Baader-Meinhof gang of the 1970s and of the Japanese terrorist group Aum Shinrikyo in the 1990s.

Post-9/11 research demonstrating that Islamist terrorism is mostly a pursuit of the middle class echoed an important study about Egyptian militants that was undertaken by the French academic Gilles Kepel during the mid-1980s.

Kepel researched the **300 Islamist militants who were tried in the wake of the 1981 assassination of Egyptian President Anwar Sadat**. Around one in five were professionals such as engineers, a quarter worked as government employees, just under half were artisans or merchants, one in 10 were in the military or police, and only one in 10 were farmers or were unemployed. **Of those who were students,**

around a third were studying in the elite fields of medicine and engineering.

Similarly, the Library of Congress issued a study two years before the 9/11 attacks that asked the question: "Who Becomes a Terrorist and Why?" The conclusion, based on a survey of all the published literature, was that there were only a few "major exceptions to the middle- and upper-class origins of terrorist groups."

There are, of course any number of exceptions to the prototypical middle-class terrorist. The terrorists who attacked Charlie Hebdo magazine in Paris last month and the Copenhagen café that was hosting the Swedish cartoonist Lars Vilks this past weekend were from the margins of society.

But for every example of poverty or lack of opportunities as a purported rationale for terrorism, it's easy to supply important counterexamples. The "underwear bomber" Umar Abdulmuttalab, who tried to set off a bomb on a U.S. passenger jet flying over Detroit on Christmas Day 2009, is the son of one of the richest men in Africa and attended University College London, which routinely rates among the best universities in the world.

**Anwar al-Awlaki, the late leader of al Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula, who tasked the underwear bomber to blow up an American plane over an American city, was studying for his Ph.D. at George Washington University before he took up arms with al Qaeda. Awlaki's father was a Cabinet minister in Yemen.**

#### What drives terrorism?

**So if it's clearly not deprivation that is driving much Islamist terrorism, what is?**

**For that we must turn to ideology, specifically religious ideology. And this is where the Obama administration has to perform some pretzel logic. It is careful to explain that the war on ISIS is not a war on Islam and that ISIS' ideology is a perversion of the religion. Fair enough. But the administration seems uncomfortable with making the connection between Islamist terrorism and ultra-fundamentalist forms of Islam that are intolerant of other religions and of other Muslims who don't share their views to the letter.**

ISIS may be a perversion of Islam, but Islamic it is, just as Christian beliefs about the



sanctity of the unborn child explain why some Christian fundamentalists attack abortion clinics and doctors. But, of course, murderous Christian fundamentalists are not killing many thousands of civilians a year. **More than 80% of the world's terrorist attacks take place in five Muslim-majority countries -- Afghanistan, Iraq, Nigeria, Pakistan and Syria -- and are largely carried out by groups with Islamist beliefs.**

This week the United Nations released a report showing **that civilian casualties in Afghanistan were at the highest level since the organization started counting them six years ago.** The Taliban were responsible for three-quarters of these deaths.

The Taliban and other Islamist terrorist groups are not, of course, secular organizations. To treat them as if they were springs from some combination of wishful thinking, PC gone crazy and a failure to accept, in an increasingly secularized era, that some will kill in the name of their god, an all-too-common phenomenon across human history.

Indeed, **while ISIS and like-minded groups and their fellow travelers are not representative of the vast majority of the world's Muslims, their ideology is rooted in Salafist ultra-fundamentalist interpretations of Islam, and indeed they can point to verses in the Quran that can be interpreted to support their worldview.**

A well-known verse in the Quran commands Muslims to "fight and slay the nonbelievers wherever you find them, seize them, beleaguer them, and lie in wait for them in every stratagem [of war]." When bin Laden made a formal declaration of war against "the Jews and the Crusaders" in 1998, he cited this Quranic verse at the beginning of his declaration.

ISIS' distinctive black flags are a reference to a supposed saying of the Prophet Mohammed that "If you see the black banners coming from the direction of Khorasan then go to them, even if you have to crawl, because among them will be Allah's Caliph the Mahdi." In other words, coming out of Khorasan, an area that now encompasses Afghanistan, will come an army that includes the Mahdi, the Islamic savior of the world. The parent organization of ISIS was al Qaeda, which, of course, was headquartered in Afghanistan at the time of the 9/11 attacks.

**Last year, ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi named himself caliph, which means that in his own mind and in the eyes of his followers he is not only the leader of ISIS but the overall leader of Muslims everywhere.** These beliefs may seem like a crazy delusion to most of us, but it's important to understand that they are theological in nature, and this theology is rooted in ultra-fundamentalist Islam.

ISIS sees itself as the vanguard army that is bringing back true Islam to the world. This project is of such cosmic importance that they will break any number of eggs to make this omelet, which accounts for their murderous campaign against every ethnic group, religious group and nationality that they perceive as standing in their way. ISIS recruits also believe that we are in the end times, and they are best understood as members of an Islamist apocalyptic death cult.

**What does that mean for policy makers? It means that the only truly effective challenges to this reasoning must come from Islamic leaders and scholars who can make the theological case that ISIS is an aberration. This, too, is an Islamic project; it is not a jobs project.**

*Peter Bergen is CNN's national security analyst, a professor of practice at Arizona State University and a vice president at the New America Foundation. He is the author of "Manhunt: The Ten-Year Search for bin Laden -- From 9/11 to Abbottabad."*

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** This is a well written article with logic grounds. But still: even if terrorist leaders are not poor men seeking a breath of air, their really poor supporters need to have a chance to enjoy the privileges of life such as better education, food and water and means to have a life instead of fighting for the day. If the "civilized" part of the world does not support the other part of the planet then weeds of terror will continue to grow and educated terrorism farmers will prosper and expand. If survival does not become less important than religion then there is no chance to experience a more wide acceptance of the fact that in our short lives peace is more important than bloodshed.



## Islamic State Loots Archaeological Sites for Cash

By John C. K. Daly

Source: [http://www.jamestown.org/programs/tm/single/?tx\\_ttnews%5Btt\\_news%5D=43555&tx\\_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=26&cHash=210fbd2d3347afadf14daa2dd299d397#.VOqxLC6TLz4](http://www.jamestown.org/programs/tm/single/?tx_ttnews%5Btt_news%5D=43555&tx_ttnews%5BbackPid%5D=26&cHash=210fbd2d3347afadf14daa2dd299d397#.VOqxLC6TLz4)



Stolen funeral busts from Palmyra, one of Syria's six UNESCO World Heritage Sites. (Source: Syrian Directorate General of Antiquities and Museums)

Feb 20 – **By late 2013, more than 90 percent of Syria's cultural sites lay in regions affected by fighting and civil unrest, leaving them open to plunder. In addition, regions of Iraq now under the control of the Islamic State militant group and its allies include roughly 4,500 of Iraq's 12,000 known archaeological sites.** [1] UNESCO recently reported that the "armed extremists in Iraq" are targeting "cultural heritage, cultural and religious minorities, as well as the documents and written evidence of one of the oldest civilizations in human history" (*al-Akhbar* [Beirut], February 4). **In addition to destroying the cultural heritage of Iraq and Syria, there is also evidence that such activities are providing an important revenue stream for the Islamic State.** U.S. officials have estimated that up to \$100 million worth of antiquities from Syria and Iraq are being sold off each year, a significant portion of which is likely to pass through the hands of the Islamic State (*Wall Street Journal*, February 10). Similarly, on February 13, a UK Conservative member of parliament, Tim Loughton, told the House of Commons **that antique buyers in the West could be unwittingly "feeding insurgencies," citing Iraqi intelligence claims that the Islamic State "had collected as much as \$36 million from the sale of artifacts"** (*Daily Telegraph*, February 13).

### Syria

In late 2012, the Islamic State dramatically increased its financial income when it secured Syria's eastern oilfields. However, due to the fall in oil prices and U.S.-led airstrikes on oil facilities in its territories, the antiquities trade has become an increasingly important source of Islamic State funds. In one recent media report, an Iraqi intelligence official was quoted as saying: "They [the Islamic State] had taken \$36 million from al-Nabuk alone (an area in the Qalamoun Mountains west of Damascus). The antiquities there are up to 8,000 years old" (*Guardian*, June 15, 2014). However, some such figures may be too high as they are based on Western auction house prices rather than initial Islamic State deals with smugglers. Despite this, while the Islamic State continues to rely on black market oil sales, earning an estimated \$850,000-1.65 million per day, the antiques trade is an important additional income source, helping it to become financially self-sustaining and less reliant on wealthy Gulf state donors (*al-Akhbar* [Beirut], February 12).

**In terms of Syria specifically, an estimated one third of Syria's museums and 16 major archaeological sites are believed to have been pillaged, fuelling an illicit trade in stolen Syrian artifacts estimated by one expert to be worth more than \$1.89 billion** (*Sunday Times*, May 5, 2013). The Islamic State typically profits from this trade by providing authorization to local inhabitants to loot archaeological sites under its control in exchange for a percentage of the monetary value of the excavated objects. The Islamic State's share is based on the Islamic *khums* tax system, which specifies that Muslims must pay to the government a predetermined percentage of the value of the retrieved items. This rate, however, reportedly varies from as high as 50 percent in the Raqqa region down to 20 percent in Islamic State-held areas of Aleppo province. [2] One smuggler told the media that bigger traders with better





connections “sold pieces worth \$500,000, some for \$1 million” (BBC, February 16).

Besides looting, Islamic State militants in Syria have also engaged in acts of ideologically-driven vandalism. In May 2014, for example, the Association for the Protection of Syrian

damaged and 77 possibly damaged (UNESCO, February 2015). [3]

Iraq

The situation is arguably even worse in Iraq, which has been wracked by strife since before 2003.

In March 2003, the former head of Iraq’s Department of Antiquities, Jaber Khalil Ibrahim, said that archaeologists believed that 500,000 archaeological sites in Iraq that remain undiscovered and unstudied, along with 10,000 registered and discovered sites, including at least 25,000 highly important ones (al-Akhbar [Beirut], February 3). Many of these sites have subsequently been looted,



Archaeology (APSA) obtained photographs of Islamic State militants smashing Assyrian statues and artifacts, believed to be 3,000 years old that had been illegally excavated from Tell Ajaja (Assyrian International News Agency, May 17, 2014). A further UN report from December 2014 based on satellite evidence, which focused on 18 areas, of which

including by extremist groups. For instance, within weeks of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, Assyrian artifacts are reported to have been looted by al-Qaeda, which then reportedly sold them to finance its operations (Assyrian International News Agency, April 1, 2003). When the Islamic State captured the northern Iraqi city of Mosul and the Nineweh province in

June 2014, they gained access to almost 2,000 of Iraq’s 12,000 registered archaeological sites, at least some of which are likely to have since been looted under their watch.

The extent to which the Islamic State has gained financially from such activities is currently unclear, but this may change as since June 2014, Iraqi intelligence

officers have been analyzing more than 160 flash drives captured near Mosul from dead Islamic State military council head Abdulrahman al-Bilawi to determine the exact role that the group has played in Syria’s illicit antiquities trade. [4] In addition to providing funds for the Islamic State, looting also provides employment in areas controlled by the Islamic State. Sadly, the



six are UNESCO-listed, noted that nearly 300 cultural heritage sites have been destroyed, damaged and looted in Syria since 2011 (AFP, February 4). The six UNESCO World Heritage Sites listed as affected include the Old City of Aleppo, Bosra, Damascus, the Dead Cities of northern Syria, Krak des Chevaliers and Palmyra. Imagery of 290 locations at these sites showed 24 of them had been destroyed, 104 severely damaged, 85 moderately



problem of archeological smuggling is not limited to Syria and Iraq in the Middle East; since 2011, \$3-6 billion worth of antiquities have reportedly vanished from Egypt, although a far smaller proportion of these are likely to have passed through the hands of militant groups (Al-Monitor, February 5, 2014.)

### International Response

While the Islamic State's degradation of the region's cultural and historic sites is unlikely to end anytime soon, the international community is taking belated steps to limit its effects. Local and international organizations like The Syrian Campaign are pushing for the UN Security Council to ban the trade of undocumented Syrian and Iraqi artifacts. [5] In early December, UNESCO Chief Irina Bokova called for the creation of "protected cultural zones" to save heritage sites in conflict-torn Iraq and Syria that were at risk of "cultural cleansing" via "stronger engagement with local actors" (*al-Akhbar* [Beirut], December 4, 2014). The problem is broader than just the Islamic State, however, as groups affiliated with the Free Syrian Army have also admitted to looting sites to raise money for weapons. There are also international efforts to disrupt the trade at "end use" countries such as Germany, which has

become the "el Dorado of the illegal cultural artifacts trade," with Munich serving as Europe's transit hub (Deutsche Welle, October 24, 2014). U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry has also weighed in on the Islamic State's looting, telling an audience in New York in September 2014:

Ancient treasures in Iraq and in Syria have now become the casualties of continuing warfare and looting. And no one group has done more to put our shared cultural heritage in the gun sights than [the Islamic State]... These acts of vandalism are a tragedy for all civilized people, and the civilized world must take a stand. [6]

In a further—and more concrete—step, on February 12, the UN Security Council unanimously passed Resolution 2199 banning all trade in antiquities from Syria, among other measures aimed at reducing the group's income from oil and kidnapping (*al-Shorfa*, February 17). However, while this is an important step, such efforts will take time to bear fruit. Meanwhile, more archaeological sites in Syria and Iraq will come to resemble the moon's cratered surface as Islamic State looters feed the artistic addictions of wealthy Western collectors while at the same time generating further income for the Islamic State's military operations.

► Notes are available at source's URL.

Read also:

### **The men who smuggle the loot that funds IS**

Source: <http://www.bbc.com/news/magazine-31485439>

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## **Kouachi intelligence failure: The struggle to balance security, privacy, budgetary concerns**

Source: <http://www.homelandsecuritynewswire.com/dr20150219-kouachi-intelligence-failure-the-struggle-to-balance-security-privacy-budgetary-concerns>

About seven months before the attacks on the Paris office of *Charlie Hebdo*, French domestic intelligence agency Direction Générale de la Sécurité Intérieure (DGSI, formerly the DCRI) monitored Saïd Kouachi for at least two years, and his younger brother Chérif Kouachi for at least a year. The surveillance of both brothers

had led nowhere, and was later considered a non-priority for intelligence officials. Patrick Calwar, head of DGSI, said the decision to turn over surveillance of Saïd Kouachi to local law enforcement in early 2014 was made so his office could focus



resources on a new wave of jihadist fighters who had traveled to Syria and could return to France to launch attacks. Prime minister

intelligence on to French authorities at the time, but it was only after the *Charlie Hebdo* shootings that counterterrorism officials learned



Manuel Valls was also under pressure to focus resources on potential threats posed by returning Syrian-war fighters, since the previous month saw an attack on a Jewish museum in Brussels by Mehdi Nemmouche, a Frenchman who had fought in Syria.

The *New York Times* reports that current and former French intelligence officials say the Kouachi brothers did not appear to be an imminent threat, adding that it would have taken twenty-five agents to monitor the two brothers around the clock. “You can’t follow everyone,” said Bernard Squarcini, who headed the D.C.R.I and oversaw the surveillance efforts on the Kouachi brothers after receiving a tip-off from the United States in 2011. “These were two inactive targets that had been quiet for a long time. They were giving nothing away,” he said.

One former senior U.S. counterterrorism official disagrees with Squarcini, saying, “Even if you give France a bit of a break, given what we know, and what the French knew then, these guys should have been high on any list. Especially since they seemed to have all the warning signs: travel to the region, a prison record, a social media profile. What more did they need?”

Early in the Kouachi case, French intelligence agencies had failed to recognize the extent of Chérif Kouachi’s connection and relationship with other jihadists. In 2011 Yemeni officials informed U.S. authorities that a Frenchman they believed to be Saïd Kouachi, visited the country. The United States passed the

that it was Chérif Kouachi who had traveled to Yemen, on his brother’s passport. **It was also only after Chérif Kouachi** spoke with a television station right before his death, that authorities learned that while in Yemen, he had met with radical American-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki, who was killed in a U.S. drone strike in Yemen in September 2011. It is likely that while in Yemen, Chérif Kouachi also met with Peter Cherif, a French jihadist who had links to Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the former al-Qaeda leader in Iraq.

The *Times* also notes that French authorities failed to update their surveillance methods as their targets grew more sophisticated. Surveillance of Chérif Kouachi was limited mostly to phone conversations, but seeing that Chérif Kouachi was previously arrested based on intercepted phone conversations, he must have been aware of the likelihood that authorities had tapped his phone again, making it unlikely that he would discuss a planned attack via phone. “The phone tapping yielded nothing,” Marc Trévidic, the chief terrorism investigator for the French judicial system, said in an interview. “If we had continued, I’m convinced it wouldn’t have changed anything. No one talks on the phone anymore.”

The decision to scale back surveillance of the Kouachi brothers is one of the many failures and missteps of French intelligence and law enforcement – failures and missteps recognized in the aftermath of the Paris attacks. Experts say this



should be a lesson to other Western governments which may have relaxed surveillance practices targeted at would-be terrorists in order to comply with budget cuts or out of genuine concern for civil liberties. "The prevalence of such substantial terror-related

activities in the not too distant past of these terrorists is quite concerning, particularly given the degree to which they appear to have been overlooked or under-watched," said Jacob Kennedy, an intelligence analyst at AIG's Global Security Operations Center.

## Are Islamic State's 'Shock and Awe' Tactics More Awful Because of One Victim?

By Juan Cole

Source: [http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/islamic\\_states\\_shock\\_awe\\_tactics\\_more\\_awful\\_because\\_of\\_one\\_victim\\_20150207?utm\\_source=feedburner&utm\\_medium=feed&utm\\_campaign=Feed%253A+Truthdig+Truthdig%253A+Drilling+Beneath+the+Headlines](http://www.truthdig.com/report/item/islamic_states_shock_awe_tactics_more_awful_because_of_one_victim_20150207?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%253A+Truthdig+Truthdig%253A+Drilling+Beneath+the+Headlines)

The Daesh (ISIL or ISIS) burning of a captured Jordanian pilot alive produced justified revulsion globally, resulting in the terrorist organization being termed "barbarous" and

of 2003. It conducted 29,200 air strikes in the course of the initial invasion. Many of those missions were flown against what turned out to be empty Baath government facilities in hopes

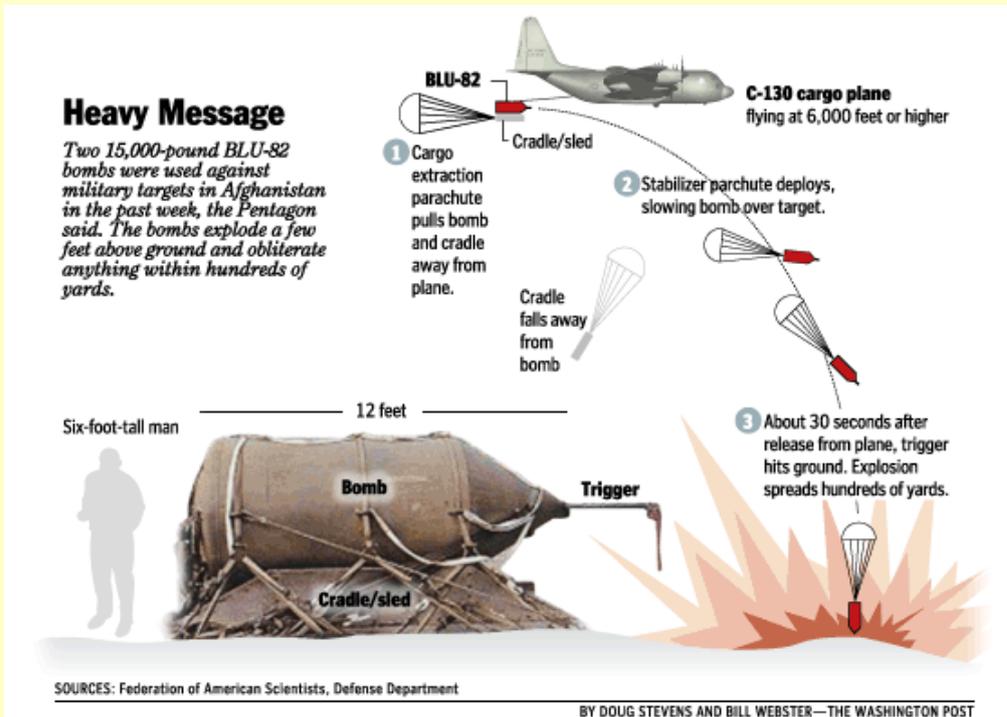
of killing high government officials (mostly that did not happen). But you can't drop 500-pound bombs on a densely populated city without killing innocent bystanders. Likely the first two months of US bombing left at the very least 2,760 civilians dead.\*

**A study based on the conservative "Iraq Body Count" found that in Iraq, "46 per cent of the victims of US air strikes whose gender could be determined were female and 39 per cent were children."**

But the slaughter from the air was great not only among civilians but among

military personnel, many of whom had no opportunity to surrender or run away (when US ground forces approaching the capital were surprised to come upon elements of a Republican Guard tank division they thought had been destroyed, the Iraqi tank personnel exited their vehicles and decamped en masse; those discovered by A-10 tank killers or Apache helicopters were not afforded that opportunity).

Speaking of burning people alive, **one technique the US used was the BLU-82B, a 15,000 pound bomb detonated near the**



similar epithets. Why did it behave this way? Because it wants to terrify its opponents into submission and underline that it is too crazy to be messed with. In short, it was a form of 'shock and awe.' It was all the more horrible for being inflicted on a single, known individual with a premeditated and inexorable viciousness, and for being carefully filmed and shared on the internet (successfully tempting Rupert Murdoch's Fox News into rebroadcasting it). "Shock and Awe" was the slogan pushed by the Bush administration for its massive bombing campaign against Iraq in March-April



ground with a blast radius of about 5000 feet, but leaving no crater. It was intended to intimidate by burning up large numbers of infantrymen or armored personnel. (It is sometimes misidentified as a fuel-air bomb or 'daisy cutter' but is much more powerful than the latter). It was retired in 2008 in favor of something even more destructive.

officials, declined to authorize the use of force. It was an illegal act of unadulterated aggression with no obvious provocation that led to the deaths of hundreds of thousands of Iraqis, the wounding of millions, and rendered four million of the 25 million Iraqis homeless over time (many of these remain displaced to this day; some have thrown in with Daesh as a result).



The US shock and awe campaign failed to shock or awe. The Iraqi military turned guerrilla and harried US troops for 8 1/2 years, then many of the ex-Baath officers and trained soldiers deserted secular nationalism, turned to al-Qaeda-type ideologies, formed Daesh and took over western and northern Iraq and eastern Syria. The ex-Baath officers learned from seeing their colleagues and troops burned up by the Bush fireworks. According to that doctrine, you want to shock the enemy with your brutality and destructiveness, and awe him into submission by your crazed irrationality. But the Daesh commanders also took the lesson that dropping 15,000 pound bombs in the dead of the night away from cameras isn't very effective, since the populace is insulated from the horror. Burning up even one

In the 2003 invasion, The Guardian reported, "The 1st Marine Expeditionary Force crossed the Tigris at the town of Kut, reporting only occasional fire from the Baghdad infantry division of the Republican Guard, which had suffered days of intense bombardment, including two massive 15,000lb "daisy-cutter" fuel-air bombs. Gen Brooks said the Baghdad division, which originally had up to 12,000 troops, had been "destroyed".

captured enemy pilot alive on video, in contrast, would be broadcast by the internet and by Rupert Murdoch to the whole world, and a few thousand thugs could arrange for themselves to take on global importance and appear truly menacing to Jordan and even to the city of Rome (so they claim). All this publicity and fear accomplished not with billions in military spending but a smartphone camera, a single captive, and a few psychopaths with matches.

I think a lot of the 'destroyed' troops were burned up alive.

Now that is Shock and Awe. Shocking in its fierce savagery, awing in its wanton inhumanity. But we shouldn't forget that that was also what Bush was going for in 2003 when he inadvertently started the process of creating Daesh as a backlash to his own monumental ruthlessness.

The purpose of the bombing was to terrify Iraqis into submitting. That is, it was a form of state terrorism. Iraq had not attacked the US. There was no casus belli or legitimate legal grounds for war. The UN Security Council, despite wooing and arm-twisting by Bush

\* [Iraq Body Count gives 24,865 civilian casualties](#) during the first two years of the Iraq War, attributing 37% of these to the US and estimating that 30% of civilian deaths occurred from the beginning of the war until May 1, 2003. Iraq Body Count statistics were



gathered passively from Western newspaper reports and personally I think that they are underestimates.

*Juan R.I. Cole is the Richard P. Mitchell Collegiate Professor of History at the University of Michigan. He has written extensively on modern Islamic movements in Egypt, the Persian Gulf and South Asia and has given numerous media interviews on the war on terrorism and the Iraq War. He lived in various parts of the Muslim world for nearly 10 years and continues to travel widely there. He speaks Arabic, Farsi and Urdu. His most recent book is "Engaging the Muslim World" (2009), and his "Napoleon's Egypt: Invading the Middle East" was published in 2007. Cole was the recipient of the Hudson Research Professorship in 2003, the National Endowment for the Humanities grant in 1991, and the Fulbright-Hays Islamic Civilization Postdoctoral Award in 1985-86. In November 2004, he was elected president of the Middle East Studies Association of North America and in 2006 was the recipient of Hunter College's James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism. Cole holds a B.A. in history and literature of religions from Northwestern University and a master's degree in Arabic studies/history from American University in Cairo. In 1984 he completed his Ph.D. in Islamic studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. Since 2002, he has published the blog Informed Comment, at <http://www.juancole.com>.*

## Spreading Terror around the Globe by Selling Drones to "US Allies"

By Joachim Hagopian

Source: <http://www.globalresearch.ca/spreading-terror-around-the-globe-by-selling-drones-to-us-allies/5432339>

*Here we go again. The US Empire does what it does best, exporting more death, destruction and terror around the world. On Tuesday the Obama administration disclosed that it plans to export killer drones to its allies from Turkey to Italy to Saudi Arabia. And we already know how that song goes. In recent years the Islamic extremists have managed to invariably get their hands on countless weapons and arms shipments intended for our so called allies. Be it in Iraq or Syria, arms that were supposed to go to the Iraqi army or allied Kurds or moderate rebels in Syria somehow always get delivered to the Islamic State extremists, the latest US-Israeli-Saudi created terrorist monster-on-steroids.*

As an example last October an airdrop of weapons that was purported to go to the Kurds in the besieged town of Kobani in Syria to fight the Islamic State forces ended up in the wrong hands. As recently as last month it was discovered and reported that the US was regularly air dropping arms and supplies to the waiting Islamic State on the ground below in Iraq. Obama's huff and puff rhetoric about hunting down the Islamic State in Syria in reality is merely another effectively deceptive ploy to commit air strikes on Assad's Syria that he couldn't get away with the year before right after the false flag chemical weapons attack committed by US backed rebels (that were later renamed ISIS). So now both Israeli and US military air strikes are taking out infrastructure inside Syria that hurts the Syrian people, destroying oil refineries and food storage silos.

Any true military strategist would know that if the United States actually wanted to destroy the so called big bad enemy terrorists, the most modern and lethal killing machine on the planet has the means to accomplish this mission within a month. But the truth is the Islamic State serves the megalomaniacal purpose of the Empire and for that reason alone, they must survive and be allowed to continue killing Western journalists and causing deaths of humanitarian aid workers as well as engaging in ongoing Christian cleansing throughout the Middle East and beyond.

Terror strikes deep into the psyche when dumbed down masses are manipulated into a frenzied, frothy hate of Islam worldwide that only serves the Zionist-Empire-NATO unholy alliance all too well.

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In between making and placing their beheading videos online, the same enemy found the time to undergo training inside our close ally Turkey's border. With this latest announcement selling drones to US allies, the world is supposed to feel safer now that our "trusted" friends in Turkey and Saudi Arabia will be receiving Obama's personal favorite form of state-sponsored terrorism from the sky. Using the same preferred modern warfare method that our president has envisioned killing Americans on US soil, he now plans to let others also use it to kill yet more innocent humans.

**A recent study from November 2014 revealed that less than 4% of those killed by drones in Yemen and Pakistan were actually the targeted bad guys while over 96% of the 1,147 dead people killed in this latest sample were innocent civilians. The January 28, 2015 tally by the Journal of Investigative**

**Journalism brings the total number of drone deaths in Pakistan alone to be estimated near 4,000 victims.** If the sloppy aim of the most experienced and trained drone pilots on the planet from the CIA and US military can't efficiently kill the enemy, what makes anyone believe that these other nations with fewer trained pilots will produce any better results? It's another disaster waiting to happen. All we are doing by spreading terror from the skies in yet more hands around the world is increasing more innocent victims whose family members will justifiably hate the US (and its allies) even more. But then the Empire's forever war on terror will be just that, with a permanent supply of fresh new jihadist recruits signing up to kill Americans to avenge the loss of their loved ones. And of course because history by design is locked into a forever do-loop pattern repeating itself, our enemies will get a hold of these made-in-the-USA drones and be using them in no time on us made-in-the-USA Americans, that is when Obama's not already using them on us. One can easily see the false flag scenario of a drone attack one day killing Americans in America and then blaming it on the Moslem terrorists who

"accidentally on purpose" managed to acquire one of our own "misdirected" killer drones. And the suicidal madness increases exponentially. A number of America's so called allies have rather dubious track records when it comes to aiding and abetting our enemy. On the one hand, Obama in his most fluent doublespeak is quick to regard Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and Pakistan as our allies in the Empire's war on terror, yet on the other hand reality has repeatedly proven that these same "friends" regularly supply and support terrorism. For that matter, so does the United States. The bottom line is the US Empire created and has been

regularly using our so called enemies al Qaeda/ISIS as our mercenary proxy-war boots on the ground in 1980's Afghanistan against the Soviets, 1990's Balkans against the Serbs, 9/11/2001 against our own American people, in 2011-12 Libya against Gaddafi and illegally smuggle arms from Benghazi, 2010 to the present in Syria against Assad and last year against puppet fallen-out-of-favor al-Maliki in Iraq. While Obama has continued claiming al Qaeda and ISIS as the US enemy, at the same time he is treasonously using our taxpayer dollars to train, arm and deploy them on the ground wherever he sees fit. The American people are finally realizing Obama cannot have it both ways any more.

Perhaps that's why a year ago after the CIA-induced overthrow of the democratically elected government in Ukraine, the US decided it was time to declare a new enemy in cold war, part II. Once Putin reclaimed its Crimean naval base after the Crimean people voted overwhelmingly to become part of Russia again, it's been a propaganda war ever since. Obama and the West have been demonizing Russia once again as the enemy through nonstop lies and false flags. But it's not working. With far more at stake in making Putin the enemy, Europe is currently attempting to arrive at peace in Eastern Ukraine through diplomacy, much to Obama's chagrin.

The truth is the United States manufactures allies and enemies according to its fickle, self-serving, propagandizing purpose and has absolutely no moral high



ground to stand on in a single aspect of its foreign policy. Whatever suits global hegemony for gaining more power and control while reaping more profit for transnational corporations and the central banking cabal is the common thread behind everything the US government does anywhere and everywhere on earth. That's why America's insane, convoluted, chaotic chessboard policy makes allies into enemies and enemies into allies at its fleeting, imperialistic will, amounting to pure schizoid madness. And aside from making

more money for the ruling elite, by design its intended purpose is to create conflict and war to destabilize, destroy and impoverish every nation it touches, a la the King Midas-in-reverse effect. And what does this demonic foreign policy have to show for itself? Failed states in Libya, Yemen, Somalia, Iraq and Afghanistan along with a faltering, choking, bankrupt US economy on the verge of total collapse. Stay tuned for the fall of the American Empire.

*Joachim Hagopian is a West Point graduate and former US Army officer. He has written a manuscript based on his unique military experience entitled "Don't Let The Bastards Getcha Down." It examines and focuses on US international relations, leadership and national security issues. After the military, Joachim earned a master's degree in Clinical Psychology and worked as a licensed therapist in the mental health field for more than a quarter century.*

## Aliens' Invation – 2015



The video allegedly shows 21 Kurdish Peshmerga fighters paraded through the the Iraqi province of Kirkuk

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## European Jihadis Unable to Join Islamic State, Locked at Home

Source: <http://www.ndtv.com/world-news/european-jihadis-unable-to-join-islamic-state-locked-at-home-741203?site=full>

**The flow of European fighters from Europe to territory held by the ultra-hardline Islamic State is drying up due to tighter restrictions imposed by European states that have prevented would-be jihadis from travelling, fighters from the group said.**

Fighters in Syria and Iraq contacted by Reuters said the impact was limited on the battlefield

since European fighters make up only a fraction of the forces of Islamic State. "Now most of the (foreign) fighters are coming from Asian countries, like Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. They are tough fighters," an Islamic State militant who fought with the





group in both Syria and Iraq, told Reuters via the internet.

Some also said that restrictions might backfire on European countries when jihadis who are prevented from travelling to the Middle East are encouraged to wage individual attacks at home.

European countries are working hard to reduce recruitment by the group, sometimes referred to by the acronyms ISIS or ISIL, which has seized wide swathes of Iraq and Syria and is now the target of a US-led campaign of air strikes.

The group takes pride in having attracted fighters from across the globe, including thousands from Europe. Western countries fear that some European fighters could return home and carry out attacks in their native countries.

The presence of European fighters drew particular attention in the West last year when a man with a British accent appeared in videos of British and American prisoners being beheaded.

European countries have arrested people for recruiting for Islamic State. Several have passed laws allowing travel documents to be seized from those who travel to fight.

One Syrian supporter of the group said such measures were a sign that its importance was being recognised.

"At first these countries took us lightly, they thought the fighters will come here and die. But what they did not see coming was that they get trained and also started to contact their friends and relatives to join," said the Syrian supporter who lives in an Islamic State-held territory.

Islamic State is now stretched, waging battles on several fronts in both Iraq and Syria while trying to administer areas under its control. Fighters proclaiming loyalty to the group also have emerged in several countries including Libya and Egypt.

Several members said the group fields 60,000 fighters in Iraq and Syria, mostly local Sunni Muslims.

About 550 **German** citizens have joined fighting in Syria and about 180 are believed to have returned, German officials have said. Germany plans to seize personal identity cards of would-be jihadis for up to three years according to a draft law.

**France** has cracked down since mid-2014, ramping up a campaign after new anti-terrorism laws were passed by parliament late last year. French officials estimate that about 400 French

citizens are in Syria, 180 have returned to France, 200 want to go and 200 are somewhere in Europe trying to get there.

**British** officials think some 600 people have gone to fight, with 300 now returned. Police can now seize the passports of nationals trying to leave the country for up to 30 days, and can temporarily prevent citizens suspected of involvement with Islamic State from re-entering Britain.

"This important legislation will disrupt the ability of people to travel abroad to fight and then return," Home Secretary Theresa May said in a statement.

### Lone wolves

Despite the crackdown, the group continues to receive fresh fighters through neighbouring countries. Several jihadi sources said that travelling through Turkey remains the main route.

**Turkey** has responded to strong criticism from Western allies alarmed at the flow of fighters into Syria by ramping up border controls, officials and diplomats have said.

This month the Turkish army said at least 19 people intent on joining Islamic State had been detained close to the frontier, including 13 foreigners.

"The impression we have is that Turkey has tightened things up," one western diplomat told Reuters.

Anti-Islamic State activists inside Syria say there has been tension among the group with some members, mainly foreigners, fleeing. Fighters deny this.

"The (foreigners) are not leaving the State. In two months in Baiji we received 180. In one of the training camps here **forty percent of the fighters are foreigners**," said a fighter who is now based in Iraq. Baiji, site of Iraq's biggest oil refinery, has been one of the main battlefields between fighters and Iraqi government forces.

The group has had its eyes on Europe since it first appeared. In many of its videos, fighters declare that one of its targets is "Rome", by which they mean Christian Europe generally. It is now encouraging what it calls "lone wolves" to carry out attacks inside Europe.

**"If they cannot come here they still fight these infidels inside the countries they live in," a fighter who gave his name as Bakr said.**



**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** The last sentence of this article proves the wrong policy applied or in progress in European countries. Let them travel to fight; BUT do not let them come back – EVER! Otherwise they will do what they were planning to do inside their homeland. It is not rocket science – just elementary logic based on the reaction of trapped radicals.

## Islamic Terrorism, Sharia Patrols and "De-Radicalization"

**A Month of Islam in Europe: January 2015**

By Soeren Kern

Source: <http://www.gatestoneinstitute.org/5240/islam-in-europe-january>

"O Europeans, the Islamic State did not initiate a war against you, as your governments and media try to make you believe. It is you who started the transgression against us, and this you deserve blame and you will pay a great price.... We will conquer your Rome, break your crosses, and enslave your women, by the permission of Allah." — **From a jihadist video threatening Italy.**

"We Muslims in no way need your help to drag us down into a sad, Western culture where youth suffer from a capitalist existential void which causes widespread depression, addiction, self-injury, and even an alarmingly high rate of suicide. It is clearly the Danish people who need help to find the correct meaning of life, and here we would like to help." — **Junes Kock, Danish convert to Islam and spokesman for Hizb ut-Tahrir, Scandinavia.**

"There seems to be something going on in Scandinavian countries, and I think it's been the reluctance to actually identify and confront hate preachers." — **Haras Rafiq, managing director, Quilliam Foundation.**

"So far we have been lucky [to avoid a major terrorist attack in Germany]. Unfortunately, this may not always be the case." — **German Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière.**



In **Austria**, the government threatened to close the Vienna-based King Abdullah bin Abdulaziz International Centre for Interreligious and Intercultural Dialogue (KAICIID), due to its refusal to condemn the flogging of Raif Badawi, a Saudi human rights activist and blogger who has been sentenced to 1,000 lashes and 10 years in prison for "insulting Islam."

Saudi Arabia responded to the threat by issuing a counter-threat to move the permanent headquarters of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) out of Austria.

Austrian Chancellor Werner Faymann said: "If this center says it stands for interreligious dialogue, then it must do so. But if it wants to remain only an economic center with a religious fig leaf, then Austria should no longer be a part of it. In any event, Austria will not allow itself to be threatened or blackmailed."

On January 20, the government announced a new plan to spend nearly 290 million euros (\$330 million) to combat terrorism over the next four years. The largest share of the money (126 million euros) will be dedicated to human resources to provide additional training of specialists for cyber security, crime fighting and

forensics. At least 13 million euros will fund "de-radicalization" programs aimed at cracking down on Islamic extremism in the country.

In Vienna, city officials closed a private Islamic primary school in the Brigittenau district, over concerns that teachers were endangering the welfare of the students. The move came after the principal failed to call an ambulance when a six-year-old pupil was knocked down by a classmate and seriously injured her forehead. The incident was not reported until the following day, when the girl still had significant swelling.

The school's principal allegedly prohibited the teaching staff from cooperating with local authorities in order not to upset the children's parents, many of whom are immigrants from Chechnya. The school said the charges against it were motivated by "Islamophobia."

Previously, Austrian authorities initiated a review of the Islamic Austrian International School in Vienna after local reporters obtained a copy of a school history textbook that contained conspiracy theories and incitement against Jews. It later emerged that some parents had forbidden their children to attend music lessons at the school on the grounds that music is *haram*, or



prohibited in Islam. The music teacher was subsequently fired for drawing attention to the problem.



In **Belgium**, two suspected jihadists, Sofiane Amghar, 26, and Khalid Ben Larbi, 23, were killed on January 15 in an anti-terror operation in Verviers, a city close to the German border. Prosecutor Eric Van Der Sypt said police had targeted a cell of jihadists returning from Syria, who were planning to launch imminent attacks.

After the shootout, police seized police uniforms, explosives and four AK-47 assault rifles. Thirteen other Belgian nationals were charged in connection with the raid, five of whom were charged with "participating in the activities of a terrorist group." The suspected ringleader of the cell, Belgian-Moroccan jihadist Abelhamid Abaaoud, remains at large.

Belgian authorities revealed that 335 Belgian nationals have gone to fight in Syria and Iraq, making it the European country with the highest proportion of jihadists in the Middle East. Of the 335, 184 are on the battlefield, 50 have been killed, and 101 have returned to Belgium.

On January 4, a Muslim inmate at the prison in Vorst stabbed six prison guards with a knife. The inmate, a 35-year-old Moroccan named Rachid El-Boukhari, had been sentenced to 27 years in prison in December for setting fire to a Shiite mosque in the Anderlecht district of Brussels. The imam of the mosque died in the blaze. El-Boukhari has now been transferred to a maximum-security prison in Bruges, where he joins Mehdi Nemmouche, a 29-year-old French national of Algerian origin, who is awaiting trial for murdering four people at the Jewish Museum in Brussels in May 2014.

In Antwerp, Mayor Bart De Wever postponed a march by PEGIDA Vlaanderen, the Flemish branch of the German anti-Islamization group PEGIDA, due to the heightened terror threat in the country. The demonstration, as well as a counter-demonstration, was to have taken place on January 26. It was rescheduled for March 2, according to the group's Facebook page.



In **Denmark**, authorities raised the official police alert level for the first time, in response to heightened threats across Europe. Danish National Police Spokesman Allan Nyiring said:

"This is the first time ever that we have gone to this alert level [level two]. I have been with the police for many years and I cannot remember any point at which we were at a higher alert level than we are right now.

"We have raised the level of preparedness to be ready if the threat becomes greater. Mentally we are preparing anything that could happen. When you look at what is happening around Europe, it is not inconceivable that someone can be inspired to carry out attacks here."

Meanwhile, the Islamist group Hizb ut-Tahrir rejected Denmark's new anti-radicalization strategy, arguing it is not Muslims who need help, but young Danes who need rescuing from a "sad Western culture" and its "capitalist existential void." On January 25, Junes Kock, a Danish convert to Islam who serves as media representative for the group, wrote:

"We Muslims in no way need your help to drag us down into a sad, Western culture where youth suffer from a capitalist existential void which causes widespread depression, addiction, self-injury, and even an alarmingly high rate of suicide. It is clearly the Danish people who need help to find the correct meaning of life, and here we would like to help."



In **Finland**, police revealed that nearly 50 people from the country have joined the ranks of the Islamic State in Syria and Iraq. Helsinki Police Chief Inspector Jari Taponen said on January 22 that of the 50 individuals, nearly 20 are native Finns (defined by Taponen as Finnish citizens who have two Finnish parents), while 76% are Finnish passport holders.

When asked whether the Finnish government should withdraw the passports of those who have joined the ranks of the Islamic State, Taponen said: "The aim is to reintegrate the individual back into society. These people have to live somewhere. They cannot be swept under the carpet as if they do not exist."

The Finnish Security Intelligence Service (Supo) estimates that between six and eight Finnish jihadists have been killed on the battlefield, and that 20 have already returned to Finland. Although most of those travelling to the Middle East are young males, there has also been an upswing in interest in



radicalism among young female converts to Islam.

The managing director of the British counter-extremism think tank Quilliam Foundation, Haras Rafiq, estimated that on a percentage basis *per capita*, there are more IS recruits coming from Finland than from the UK. He said:

"[Finland] is one of the biggest problem areas in Europe. In Finland, the proportion of combatants in the Muslim population is more than three times higher than in Britain.

"There seems to be something going on in Scandinavian countries, and I think it's been the reluctance to actually identify and confront hate preachers."

On January 9, Supo said that the Finns Party MEP Jussi Halla-aho had received a threatening message from a Finnish jihadist who calls himself Abu Hurairah Finlandi. He wrote: "You are on the list of the first to be killed when we arrive in Finland." He also threatened to attack the government and parliament buildings if Finland decides to join the "coalition against the caliphate."

An investigation carried out by local media concluded that the individual is a 21-year-old man of Pakistani origin who was studying business in Pori, a city along the west coast of Finland, but who had left to join the Islamic State in Syria in October 2014.

On January 14, a man described by police as having "dark skin" and a "foreign background" hacked two people to death with an axe at a pub in Oulu, a city in northern Finland. Police are refusing to publish the identity of the suspect, who was fatally shot hours later when police tried to apprehend him. Detective Chief Inspector Ari-Pekka Kouva, who is leading the investigation, told reporters that Oulu police have stepped-up monitoring of social media, to prevent anti-immigrant sentiment from "boiling over" following the killings.

Meanwhile, the chairman and the secretary of the Finnish Kurdish Alliance, Wehlat Neri and Majid Hakki, respectively, warned that self-taught "false imams" were spreading Islamic Sharia law in Finland. They said that controls were needed to prevent "unqualified" imams from radicalizing the moderate Muslim community. "Of the imams in Finland, more than half of them would not be allowed to have the same role in Muslim countries, where there are controls over who can serve as an imam," they wrote. They noted the example of one

imam who began preaching Islamism and later left Finland to become a jihadist with the Islamic State.



In **France**, a series of jihadist attacks in Paris left 17 people dead. The first and deadliest of the attacks occurred on January 7, when French-born Islamic radicals Chérif and Saïd Kouachi stormed the offices of the satirical magazine *Charlie Hebdo* and fatally shot eight employees, two police officers, and two others, and injured eleven other people.

On January 8, a third assailant in the attacks, Amedy Coulibaly, shot and killed municipal police officer Clarissa Jean-Philippe in Montrouge, a southern suburb of Paris. On January 9, Coulibaly entered a Hyper Cacher kosher supermarket in Paris, killed four people and took several hostages. Coulibaly was killed when police stormed the store. His female accomplice, believed to be his wife, Hayat Boumeddiene, remains at large.

An Ifop poll published by the *Journal du Dimanche* on January 18 showed that 42% of French people oppose the publication of cartoons depicting the Prophet Mohammed, such as those published by *Charlie Hebdo*, and indicated that they believed there should be "limitations on free speech online and on social networks." The vast majority – 81% – said they favored stripping French nationality from dual nationals who have committed an act of terrorism on French soil.

More than two-thirds (68%) said that French citizens should be banned from returning to the country if "they are suspected of having gone to fight in countries or regions controlled by terrorist groups."

On January 28, an Ipsos/Sopra-Steria poll produced for *Le Monde* and Europe 1 Radio found that 53% of French citizens believe the country is "at war" and 51% feel that Islam is "incompatible" with the values of French society.

On January 20, French Prime Minister Manuel Valls said that the terrorist attacks exposed a "territorial, social, ethnic apartheid" that is plaguing French society. In a speech that was described as one of the strongest indictments of French society ever by a government figure, Valls said there was an urgent need to fight discrimination, especially in impoverished suburbs that are home to many Muslim immigrants. He said that



despite years of government efforts to improve conditions in run-down neighborhoods, many people have been relegated to living in ghettos. He added:

"The social misery is compounded by daily discrimination, because someone does not have the right family name, the right skin color, or because she is a woman. I am not making excuses, but we have to look at the reality of our country."

On January 21, Valls announced a 736 million euro (\$835 million) program to augment its anti-terrorism defenses amid a rapidly expanding jihadist threat. He said the government would hire and train 2,680 new anti-terrorist judges, security agents, police officers, electronic eavesdroppers and analysts over the next three years. The government will also spend 480 million euros on new weapons and protective gear for police. The initiative includes an enhanced online presence based on a new government website called "Stop Djihadisme."

On January 23, the Conseil Constitutionnel, the highest court in France, dismissed a legal challenge to a ruling that stripped a French-Moroccan jihadist of French citizenship after he was convicted on terror-related charges. The challenge was brought by lawyers for Ahmed Sahnouni el-Yaacoubi, a Moroccan who obtained French citizenship in 2003, and who was sentenced to seven years in prison in March 2013 for recruiting jihadists online. He was stripped of his citizenship in May 2014.

Sahnouni's lawyer argued that the move was unconstitutional because it breached the equality between French-born citizens and those who are naturalized. The lawyer said that the French Civil Code, which states that naturalized French citizens can be stripped of their nationality if found guilty of "acts of terrorism," violates France's Declaration of the Rights of Man and of the Citizen, which states that the law "must be the same for everyone, whether it protects or punishes."

In a statement, the high court wrote:

"The Constitutional Court noted that people who acquired French nationality and those to whom French nationality was given at birth are in the same situation, but that the difference in treatment, which was created to combat terrorism, does not violate the principle of equality."

On January 20, police arrested five Chechens in southern France on suspicion that they were

preparing an attack on French soil. Four of the suspects were detained in the city of Montpellier, and the fifth was arrested in the nearby town of Béziers.

On January 27, heavily armed police arrested five suspected jihadists, aged 26 to 44, in dawn raids in Lunel, a small town near the Mediterranean coast. At least ten, and possibly as many as 20 people from the town -- with a population of just 25,000 -- have travelled to Syria and Iraq to fight with the Islamic State.

On January 3, a 23-year-old Muslim man in the eastern city of Metz tried to strangle a police officer while shouting "Allahu Akbar!" ("Allah is greater!"). The assault took place at the police station after the man, who was arrested for purse-snatching, asked the officer to bring him a glass of water. When the policeman opened the cell door, the man lunged at him. The officer was rescued by a colleague who saw the scene unfold on a video surveillance camera.

The attack was similar to one that occurred in Joue-les-Tours in December, when a 20-year-old convert to Islam named Bertrand Nzohabonayo attacked police with a knife while shouting "Allahu Akbar." The man was killed by police in self-defense.

In the Paris suburb of Clichy-la-Garenne, an artwork depicting women's shoes on Muslim prayer rugs was removed from an exhibition after the Federation of Islamic Associations of Clichy warned that it might provoke "uncontrollable, irresponsible incidents." The artwork, made by the French-Algerian artist Zoulikha Bouabdellah, included high-heel shoes placed on the center of prayer rugs in shades of blue, white and red, symbolizing the French flag.

Bouabdellah defended herself, saying that she did not consider the work to be blasphemous, but curator Christine Ollier said it would be removed to "avoid polemics." The act of self-censorship was criticized by other artists who said that the freedom of expression was being undermined.

In **Germany**, the offices of the *Hamburger Morgenpost* were firebombed on January 11, after the newspaper republished *Charlie Hebdo* cartoons on its front cover in solidarity with the French magazine and in defense of free speech. The perpetrators remain at large.



On January 12, a record 25,000 people joined an anti-Islamization march in Dresden, just days after the jihadist attacks in Paris. The march was organized by a citizen's movement called PEGIDA, short for "Patriotic Europeans Against the Islamization of the West." The group, which has been holding marches in Dresden on Monday evenings since October, has seen the number of protesters increase exponentially from week to week.

On January 21, however, PEGIDA's founder and leader Lutz Bachmann abruptly stepped down after German media published a photograph of him with an Adolf Hitler-style haircut and moustache. On January 27, five other senior PEGIDA leaders abandoned the group. The leadership split has cast the future of the movement into doubt.

On January 12, German Chancellor Angela Merkel repudiated the PEGIDA movement by saying that Islam "belongs to Germany." She was repeating comments made by former German president Christian Wulff in October 2010, when he triggered a heated debate about the role of Islam in Germany.

On January 25, however, the prime minister of the eastern German state of Saxony, Stanislaw Tillich, said he disagreed with Merkel. "Muslims are welcome in Germany and can practice their religion," he said. "But this does not mean that Islam is part of Saxony." The capital city of Saxony is Dresden, which is the headquarters of the PEGIDA movement.

Also on January 25, German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said PEGIDA was harming Germany's international image.

On January 12, a 20-year-old Eritrean refugee and asylum seeker named Khaled Idris Bahray was stabbed to death in Dresden. European media were quick to blame PEGIDA for inciting the murder of Bahray, who was Muslim. The London-based *Guardian* reported that the killing "exposes racial tensions" and "anti-immigration sentiment" in Germany. On January 22, however, German prosecutors said that a 26-year old Eritrean roommate of Bahray had confessed to the stabbing.

On January 9, *Der Spiegel* reported that Germany's Federal Criminal Police Agency (Bundeskriminalamt, BKA) was implementing a nationwide emergency plan aimed at preventing Islamic terrorists from striking in Germany. According to the magazine, federal and state security agencies were ordered to locate the whereabouts of up to 250 German

Islamists and other "relevant persons" whose identities are known to counter-terrorism authorities.

In a January 11 interview with the newspaper *Bild am Sonntag*, German Interior Minister Thomas de Maizière confirmed that German intelligence was monitoring "around 260 individuals" who could potentially strike at any moment.

*Bild* questioned whether Germany has enough security personnel to track all the potential terrorists. According to the newspaper, at least 60 police officers are needed to monitor successfully just one German jihadist around the clock. De Maizière said he was doing all he could, but he conceded: "So far we have been lucky. Unfortunately, this may not always be the case."

A few days later, German police said they had received specific warnings that Islamic terrorists were planning to attack the central train stations in Berlin and Dresden. The newsmagazine *Der Spiegel* reported that foreign intelligence agencies had intercepted the information from jihadist groups. "We are taking these tips seriously," a high-ranking security official was quoted as saying.

On January 15, police in Lower Saxony arrested a 26-year-old German-Lebanese jihadist identified as Ayub B. He is being charged with participating in the jihad in Syria. Also on January 15, police in Pforzheim raided the apartments of two Balkan Salafists. On January 16, more than 250 police searched 11 premises in Berlin. They arrested five Turkish Islamists, including a 41-year-old Turk identified as Ismet D., who refers to himself as the "Emir of Berlin." On January 20, more than 200 police raided 13 properties in Berlin and the eastern states of Brandenburg and Thuringia.

German intelligence authorities estimate that at least 550 people have left Germany for Syria and around 180 have returned.

On January 29, the carnival committee in Cologne dropped plans to build a *Charlie Hebdo*-themed float on fears that it might pose a security threat. The float was to feature in the February 16 parade as an expression of support for *Charlie Hebdo* in France. The design, which was chosen by the public in an online poll, showed a cartoonist forcing a pencil into the barrel of a terrorist's gun.



Finally, the German supermarket chain Aldi removed a brand of liquid soap from store shelves after complaints that its packaging was offensive to Muslims. Aldi said the packaging of the Ombia 1,001 Nights liquid soap, which depicts a mosque with dome and minarets, together with a lantern and a set of prayer beads, was intended to evoke a scene from the Middle East

But Aldi reacted quickly after Muslim customers posted complaints about the design on Aldi's Facebook page. "When I saw your liquid soap by Ombia on your shelves, I was a little shocked since it showed a mosque," one customer posted on Aldi's Facebook page. "The mosque with its dome and minarets is a symbol that stands for dignity and respect for Muslims. That is why I do not find it appropriate to depict this meaningful image on an item of daily use."



In **Greece**, police on January 17 arrested a 33-year-old Algerian man named Omar Damasch, believed to be linked to a foiled jihadist plot to attack police in Belgium. He was among half-a-dozen other Islamists detained by Greek police after Belgian police raided a suspected Islamist cell in the east Belgian town of Verviers. On January 29, Damasch was extradited to Belgium, where he was charged with terrorism offenses.



In **Italy**, the media reported about a four-minute video in which jihadists threatened to attack famous historical sites in Rome, including the Coliseum, the Pantheon, the Trevi Fountain and the Vatican. The video includes English subtitles that warn: "O Europeans, the Islamic State did not initiate a war against you, as your governments and media try to make you believe. It is you who started the transgression against us, and thus you deserve blame and you will pay a great price.

"You will pay the price as you are afraid of travelling to any land. Rather you will pay the price as you walk on your streets, turning right and left, fearing the Muslims. You will not feel secure even in your bedrooms.

"We will strike you in your homeland, and you will never be able to harm anyone afterwards. "We have warned you that today we are in a new era, an era where the [Islamic] State, its soldiers, and its sons are leaders not slaves. They are a people who through the ages have not known defeat. The outcome of their battles

is concluded before they begin. Being killed—according to their account—is a victory.

"This is where the secret lies. You fight a people who can never be defeated. They either gain victory or are killed.

"We will conquer your Rome, break your crosses, and enslave your women, by the permission of Allah."

On January 18, Interior Minister Angelino Alfano revealed that Italy has deported nine suspected Islamic militants so far this year. He said that five Tunisians, one Turk, one Egyptian, one Moroccan and one Pakistani, all of whom had longstanding residence permits, had been expelled. Two had been preparing to travel to Syria to fight with Islamist militant groups, he said. Alfano also said that Italian authorities were monitoring more than 100 suspected Islamic militants.

On January 21, a former jihadist now working with Canadian intelligence told the Italian television show Matrix that there are dozens of Italians who are "ready to fight" for the Islamic State. "They do not feel Italian," said Mubin Shaikh. "Only their citizenship is Italian," he added, noting that "they could be sent back to their 'home country' to carry out attacks."



In the **Netherlands**, it emerged that police in The Hague hired Muslim patrols from the Salafist As-Sunnah mosque to keep the peace during New Year's Eve. The patrols were tasked with keeping order in the city's Transvaal and Schilderswijk districts, home a large Muslim community.

MPs Joram van Klaveren and Louis Bontes of a party called "For the Netherlands" (VNL) said that it was "more than misguided" that the Dutch government "must be represented on the street by a Salafi mosque."

The leader of the Freedom Party in The Hague's city council, Leon de Jong, asked the city council written questions about what he called the "Sharia police" of the As-Sunnah mosque. "This kind of Islamization undermines the authority of the police," he said. "The police should control the streets. There is no place in The Hague for any kind of Islamic law enforcement whatsoever."



In **Norway**, police on January 20 ordered the forcible relocation of Najmuddin Faraj Ahmad, an Iraqi-born cleric, who was released from prison after serving time for



making death threats against politicians and fellow immigrants. The 58-year-old Kurdish Sunni cleric, also known as Mullah Krekar, was to be held at an asylum center in the village of village of Kyrksæterøra in Trøndelag, situated more than 600 kilometers (370 miles) from his home in Oslo.

Krekar came to Norway as a refugee from northern Iraq in 1991. He was the leader of the Islamist group Ansar al-Islam in Kurdistan. In 2005, he was convicted of making death threats against three other Kurdish immigrants who he said had insulted Islam. In 2007, the Norwegian Supreme Court determined that Krekar was a "danger to national security." In 2012, he was sentenced to five years in prison for issuing death threats against Norwegian officials if they tried to deport him to Iraq.



In **Spain**, the websites of at least 40 municipalities in the autonomous community of Navarre were hacked on January 20 and replaced with messages in support of the Islamic State. The messages, in Arabic, read: "The Islamic State exists and will endure, Allah willing, and will destroy all with rage." The hackers also included a message in English which read, "I love ISIS," followed by messages in French which read, "Je suis Mohamed" and "Je suis ISIS." Spanish police said they believed the hackers were sympathizers of the Islamic State based in neighboring France.

On January 24, police arrested four suspected jihadists in Spain's North African exclave of Ceuta. The Interior Ministry said that the men, of Spanish nationality and Moroccan origin, had been carrying out an aggressive campaign on Internet forums using Islamic State slogans to recruit jihadists to fight in Syria and Iraq and to carry out attacks in Western countries.

Interior Minister Jorge Fernández Díaz said: "There are two pairs of very radicalized brothers who are highly trained militarily, physically and mentally and are prepared to carry out an attack, and ready, according to police, to blow themselves up in the act."

On January 9, police in the Catalan city of Manresa apprehended an 18-year-old Moroccan, identified only as Omar S., after he took to the street wielding a knife and yelling "I am a Muslim!" and "Allahu Akbar!" During his arrest, Omar tried to grab the police officer's

weapon and managed to smash the windows of the police car. He later said: "You killed my brothers in Paris ... all you Christians will die."

Meanwhile, the government banned the Spanish branch of the German anti-Islamization movement PEGIDA from rallying in front of the country's largest mosque in Madrid on January 23. The Interior Ministry said the rally "could pose a serious risk to public security." The march was organized by a group called "Spain on the Move" (La España en Marcha) under the slogan "Islam get out of Europe, along with your hatred for our Christianity. No to multiculturalism." The group vowed: "We will not be silenced."

There are now three separate PEGIDA groups active in Spain: PEGIDA Spain, PEGIDA Valencia and PEGIDA Catalonia.



In **Sweden**, a reporter who walked around Malmö, the third-largest city in the country, while wearing a Jewish skullcap and a Star of David chain around his neck to test attitudes toward Jews, was repeatedly attacked by passersby.

In a 58-minute documentary about anti-Semitism in Malmö that was aired by Swedish Television on January 21, journalist Petter Ljunggren, equipped with a hidden camera, was shown sitting at a cafe in downtown Malmö reading a newspaper as several passersby hurled abuse at him.

At one location he was called "Jewish sh\*t" and at another a "Jewish Satan." One passerby told Ljunggren to "get out," while another person on a scooter approached him to warn him to leave for his own safety.

In the Rosengård district, a neighborhood with a large Muslim population, Ljunggren was surrounded by a dozen men who threatened him, while residents of nearby apartments threw eggs at him and shouted anti-Semitic slogans. He was forced to flee the area.

Meanwhile, the Swedish welfare agency Socialstyrelsen reported that an estimated 38,000 girls and women in Sweden have been subjected to female genital mutilation, and that another 19,000 are "at risk" of having the procedure performed on them.

Although FGM was outlawed in Sweden in 1992, the practice continues apace among the country's immigrant community.





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**EDITOR'S COMMENT:**



"don't worry.  
be happy:) "

**DHS intelligence report warns of domestic right-wing terror threat**

Source: <http://edition.cnn.com/2015/02/19/politics/terror-threat-homeland-security/>

They're carrying out sporadic terror attacks on police, have threatened attacks on government buildings and reject government authority.

A new intelligence assessment, circulated by the Department of Homeland Security this month and reviewed by CNN, focuses on the domestic terror threat from right-wing sovereign citizen extremists and comes as the Obama administration holds a White House conference to focus efforts to fight violent extremism.

Some federal and local law enforcement groups view the domestic terror threat from sovereign citizen groups as equal to -- and in some cases greater than -- the threat from foreign Islamic terror groups, such as ISIS, that garner more public attention.

The Homeland Security report, produced in coordination with the FBI, counts 24 violent sovereign citizen-related attacks across the U.S. since 2010.

The government says these are extremists who believe that they can ignore laws and that their individual rights are under attack in routine daily instances such as a traffic stop or being required to obey a court order.

They've lashed out against authority in incidents such as one in 2012, in which a father and son were accused of engaging in a shootout with police in Louisiana, in a

confrontation that began with an officer pulling them over for a traffic violation. Two officers were killed and several others wounded in the confrontation. The men were sovereign citizen extremists who claimed police had no authority over them.

Among the findings from the Homeland Security intelligence assessment: "(Sovereign citizen) violence during 2015 will occur most frequently during routine law enforcement encounters at a suspect's home, during enforcement stops and at government offices."

The report adds that "law enforcement officers will remain the primary target of (sovereign citizen) violence over the next year due to their role in physically enforcing laws and regulations."

The White House has fended off criticism in recent days for its reluctance to say the words "Islamist extremism," even as the conference this week almost entirely focused on helping imams and community groups to counteract the lure of groups like ISIS.

Absent from the White House conference is any focus on the domestic terror threat posed by sovereign citizens, militias and other anti-government terrorists that have carried out multiple attacks in recent years.



An administration official says the White House is focused on the threat from all terrorists, including from sovereign citizen and other domestic groups.

"I don't think it's fair to say the (White House) conference didn't address this at all," the official said, adding that President Barack Obama addressed the need to combat "violent ideologies" of all types.

Transportation Security Administration employees at Los Angeles International Airport, killing one TSA officer. Last year, a couple killed two police officers and a bystander at a Las Vegas Walmart store.

Mark Potok, senior fellow at the Southern Poverty Law Center, said that by some estimates, there are as many as 300,000 people involved in some way with sovereign



DHS has documented examples of violence by sovereign citizen extremists since 2010. They range from incidents that occurred in the home and at traffic stops to attacks on government buildings.

An official at the Justice Department, which is leading the administration's counter-radicalization effort, says many of the tactics aimed at thwarting radical Islamic recruitment of young people can also be used to fight anti-government extremist groups.

While groups like ISIS and al Qaeda garner the most attention, for many local cops, the danger is closer to home.

A survey last year of state and local law enforcement officers listed sovereign citizen terrorists, ahead of foreign Islamists, and domestic militia groups as the top domestic terror threat.

The survey was part of a study produced by the University of Maryland's National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism.

In 2013, a man who held anti-government views carried out a shooting attack on three

citizen extremism. Perhaps 100,000 people form a core of the movement, he said.

The federal government's focus on the domestic groups waxes and wanes, Potok said, in part because the threat from foreign groups like al Qaeda and its affiliates.

Potok says sovereign citizen groups have attracted support because of poor economic conditions. Some groups travel the country pitching their ideology as a way to help homeowners escape foreclosure or get out of debt, by simply ignoring the courts and bankruptcy law.

The Homeland Security report's focus on right-wing terrorists is a subject that garnered political controversy for the Obama administration in the past. In 2009, a Homeland Security report on possible recruitment of military veterans by right-wing militia groups prompted an outcry from veterans groups.

The report was produced by staff members during the Bush administration but wasn't published until then Homeland Security Janet Napolitano had taken office.

Napolitano criticized her own agency for the report.



### New TRC Book Released

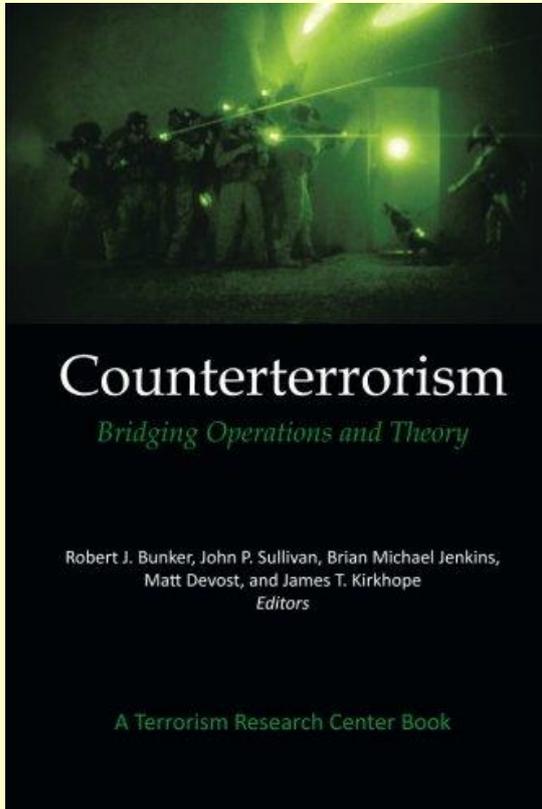
By Robert J. Bunker (Editor)

Paperback – February 10, 2015

Source: <http://www.terrorism.org/2015/02/new-trc-book-released/>



The Terrorism Research Center has released the seminal work on counterterrorism issues. Developed over the course of 10 years, the book "Counterterrorism: Bridging Operations and Theory" includes contributions from the world's foremost counterterrorism experts.



Counterterrorism/Homeland Security/Security Studies Contributors: Dr. John Arquilla Jeffrey "Skunk" Baxter Matt Begert Dr. Stefan Brem Michael Brooks Dr. Robert J. Bunker Rick Y. Byrum Lisa J. Campbell Irina A. Chindea Dr. Martin van Creveld James P. Denney Matthew G. Devost T. Kessara Eldridge Adam Elkus Dr. Fadi Essmaeel Dr. Christopher Flaherty Phillip W. Fouts Dr. Daveed Gartenstein-Ross Dr. Russell W. Glenn Scott Gerwehr Dr. Lester W. Grau Thomas Greco Dr. Daniel S. Gressang IV Dr. Rohan Gunaratna Dr. Thomas X. Hammes Jennifer (Demmert) Hardwick Daniel P. Heenan Dr. Brian K. Houghton Ali A. Jalali Brian Michael Jenkins Dr. Peter Katona Hal Kempfer Dr. David Kilcullen James T. Kirkhope Dr. Scott P. Layne Ernest (Ernie) J. Lorelli Dr. Prem Mahadevan Paul M. Maniscalco Kevin R. McCarthy Jason Pate William C. Patrick III Ralph Peters Dr. Raymond Picquet Caitlin Poling Byron Ramirez John Robb Dr. David Ronfeldt Mitchell D. Silber Dr. Joshua

Sinai Dr. Erroll G. Southers Dr. John P. Sullivan Michael Tanji Dr. Gregory F. Treverton Donald E. Vandergriff G.I. Wilson.

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### How East African piracy ended, and lessons West Africa can learn to end crime on its waters

Source: <http://mgafrica.com/article/2015-02-20-how-somali-piracy-was-ended-unusual-military-collaborations-and-5-very-ingenuous-inventions>



Royal Marines, part of the NATO led counter-piracy troops, intercept a suspected Somali pirate vessel in January 2012. (Photo UK Ministry of Defence/flickr). BELOW guards parade outside the Garowe pirate prison. (Photo UNODC)

LAST year's numbers are not yet in, but indications are that Somali



piracy in the Gulf of Aden and Indian Ocean is all but ended. A report from maritime security advocacy group Oceans Beyond Piracy indicates that in 2013, not a single merchant vessel was successfully hijacked by pirates, with 23 unsuccessful attempts recorded.

It's a precipitous decline from the peak year of 2010, when 47 merchant vessels were hijacked, and more than 200 attempts recorded. Compared with 2012, the overall cost of Somali piracy is down by almost 50% in 2013, from \$5.7 - 6.1 billion to \$3 - 3.2 billion.

This cost downturn is mainly driven by reduced costs for ship transit patterns across the high risk area, such as reduced speeds and less re-routing by merchant vessels crossing the High Risk Area. Other significantly lower costs include smaller teams of armed guards, lower insurance costs, and reduced costs for prosecutions and imprisonment.

**However, reports last year, citing 2013 data, indicated that piracy had decisively migrated from East Africa to West Africa.**

In the Gulf of Guinea, pirates attacked ships 51 times in 2013, around 19% of the attacks worldwide, up from only 7% just over five years ago, according to International Maritime Bureau (IMB)'s [annual piracy report](#).

**Nigerian pirates accounted for 31 of the region's attacks, overtaking Somalia, which had only 15 episodes of piracy that same year.**

The East and West African pirates also have different motivations – with deadly consequences.

Somali pirates targeted ship crews for ransom; and so because they could win millions of dollars they were more vested in the survival of their hostages.

**West African pirates have their eyes on a much larger, and lucrative target: the ship's actual cargo.** West African pirates target oil tankers, whose valuable cargo they can siphon off and sell to either illegal refineries in Nigeria and elsewhere. And often they robbed the crews of their possessions, which in part **makes West Africa home to the world's most violent pirates.**

Here's how piracy come to such a screeching halt in East Africa, and some lessons West Africa could pick up:

#### **Military operations**

The lack of the authority of a central government in Somalia allowed for the pirates

to rise, but also, ironically, made it easier to defeat them. With Somalia unable to police its waters, piracy became a problem that powerful governments saw as theirs to solve – especially because the narrow Gulf of Aden is crucial in the shipments of crude oil from the Persian Gulf to Europe and America.

It led to perhaps the largest assembly of navies for a single military operation, 24 in all. For the first time since World War II, all five permanent members of the Security Council – typically split ideologically down the middle – deployed forces against the same foe.

Three main coalitions of naval forces have been fighting piracy in the Indian Ocean. There's the EU's NAVFOR Operation Atalanta, comprising navies from Spain, Germany, Belgium, France, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, Italy and Estonia.

NATO's Operation Ocean Shield brings together Italy, Turkey, Denmark, Netherlands, Norway, Ukraine and USA; and the Combined Task Force 151, comprises Australia, Japan, Pakistan, South Korea, Turkey, UK and USA.

There are also the "independents", navies working to deter piracy but are not part of any official coalition – China, India, Iran, Japan, Malaysia and Russia.

**One of the more iron-fisted tactics used by military patrols was surveilling suspected pirate vessels using drones, and waiting until they were in international waters (22 km from the Somali coast), says Somali journal Hiraan Online.**

The international navies would then board and search any suspected pirate vessel, and if weapons and boarding equipment was found, the pirates were fingerprinted, taken back to Somalia and left on a beach. Their boat was sunk at sea, along with their weapons and tools; documents found on the boat were passed on to intelligence specialists. This degree of scrutiny was more than the pirates could handle, Hiraan says.

#### **World's biggest pirate prison**

As a statement of serious intent to deal with piracy in East Africa, in April 2014 the president of Puntland, Abdiweli Mohamed Ali Gaas, officially **opened the biggest pirate prison ever built in the Horn of Africa - and possibly in the world in recent years.**



**Armed guards**

Estimates from the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa indicate that approximately 80% of vessels transiting the piracy high-risk area used armed guards at the height of the attacks. In 2013, with the lower incidence of piracy, 35-40% of ships still used armed guards in transit.

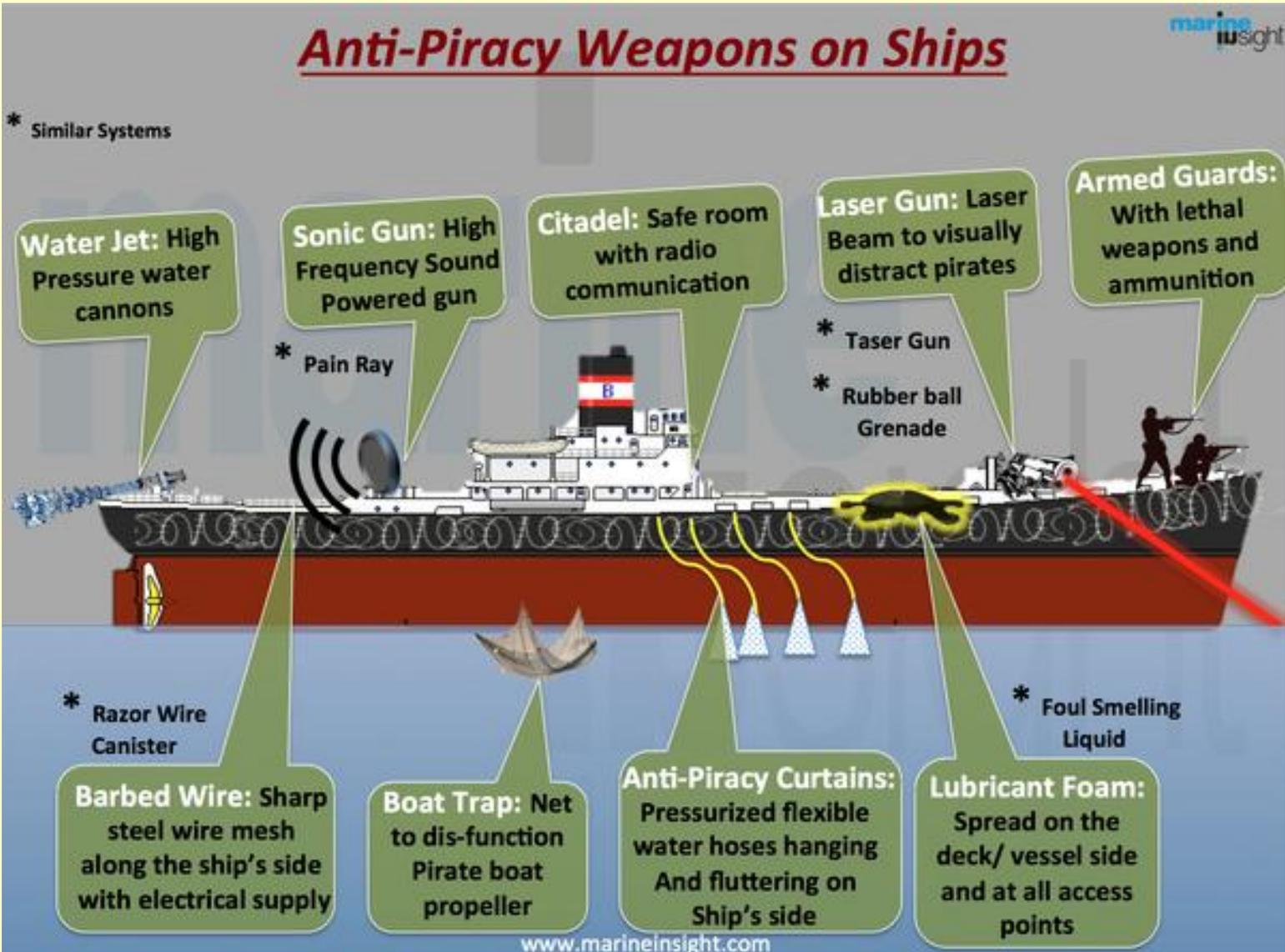
The cost of a 3-4 man team is between \$28,500 and \$38,000, but the hefty bill is well worth it – seeing arms on board is a big

It started with good old barbed/ razor wire and electric fencing, but the inventions quickly got really interesting.

**1. Water cannons/ 'Anti-Piracy Curtain'**

A system of high-powered streams of water that can be aimed at pirates trying to board a ship, or aimed at their boats, flooding and destabilising them.

In one version trademarked the 'Anti-Piracy



deterrent, Economist says, as pirates are playing it safe by first scouting for guards, whereas previously they indiscriminately opened fire to intimidate crews into submission.

**Security installations on ships**

If the pirates can't board the ship, then they can't hijack it. So piracy spurred a buzz of security innovations, which made it all but impossible for pirates to board the ships.

Curtain', water hoses are dangled off the sides of the vessel, and when water is sprayed through the high-pressure nozzle, the hoses jerk wildly back and forth, packing enough force to seriously injure anyone in the way.

Some inventors were even mulling the idea to mix chilli oil into the water hoses for an added punch.



2. Long Range Acoustic Device (LRAD)/ 'Sound Cannon'



Shaped like a big, round loudspeaker, the

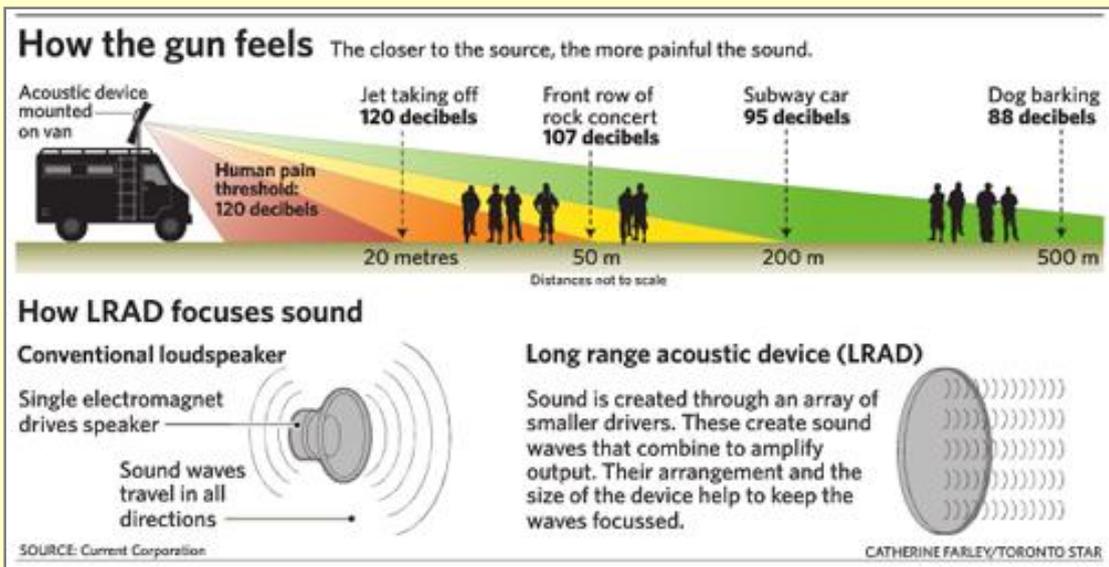
can direct the offensive sound at the pirates, and spare their own ears.

3. Lasers

Another deterrent in use is a laser beam capable of providing a visual warning to pirates at distance of over 2 km, and at shorter distances the glare is intense enough to temporarily blind attackers so that they are unable to target their weapons effectively.

4. Boat trap

Because most pirates approach a ship on motor-propelled boats, floating a net just under the water surface on the sides of the ship traps

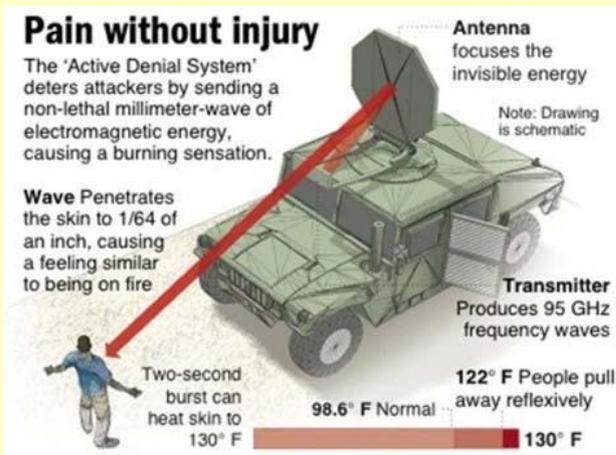


LRAD can emit painfully loud sound frequencies that are enough to disorientate any approaching pirates. But the real ingenuity is in the fact that the LRAD concentrates the sound waves into a narrow beam, making it easy to

and disables the motorboat propeller.

5. Lubricant foam

Slippery foam or anti-traction material is a non-lethal substance which can be used to make the deck or sides of a ship slippery to avoid pirates from climbing it. The highly viscous substance substantially reduces traction of anything that comes in contact with it, making it difficult to walk or stand.



direct the sound at a specific target, much like using a spotlight. It means that the ship crew

6. 'Pain Ray'

The 'Pain Ray' - its official name is Active Denial System (ADS) - is a non-lethal weapon which transmits a narrow beam of electromagnetic energy to heat the skin without causing permanent damage. The wave penetrates beneath the skin which causes unbearable burning sensation, forcing pirates to run away or jump overboard.



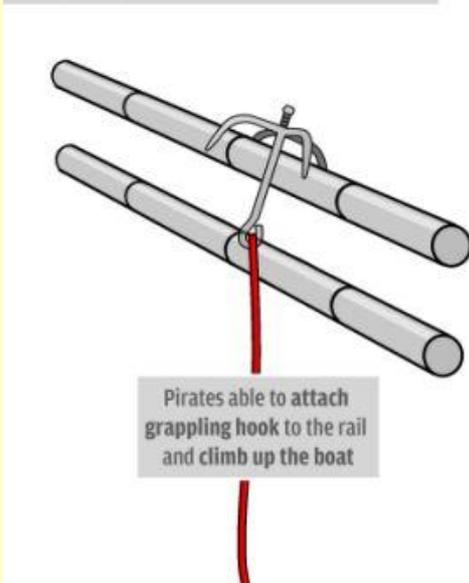


7. 'Guardian Anti-Piracy Barriers'

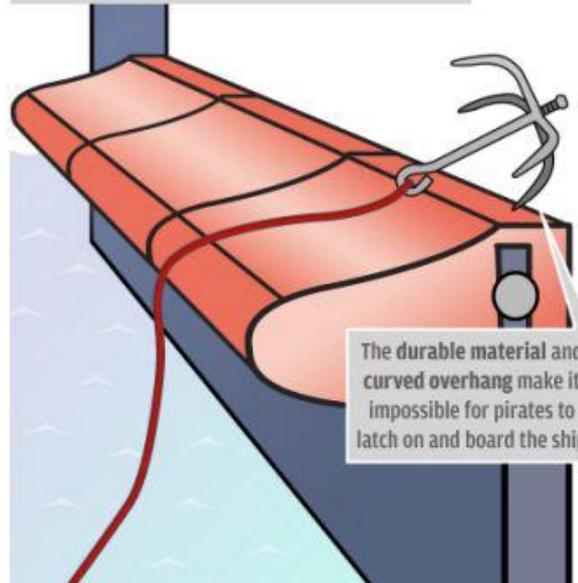
Perhaps the simplest and most ingenious invention is Guardian Anti-Piracy Barriers, a

to the crew itself – clothes get trapped in it and it's easy to get nicked, and it's cumbersome because has to be removed when the ship is

Grappling hook onto standard rail

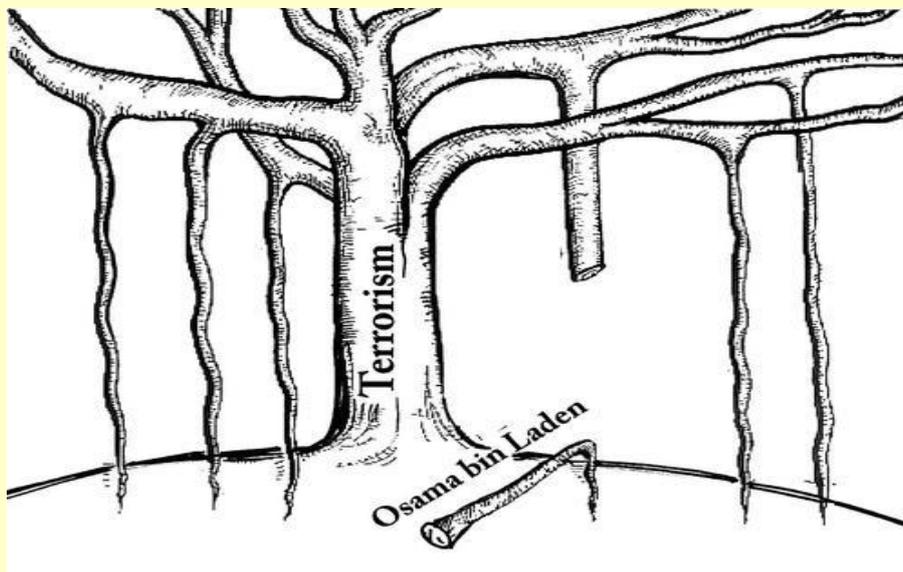


Grappling hook onto The Guardian



smooth, P-shaped casing of hard plastic that fits over the rail of any ship and prevents ladders and grappling hooks from getting a hold on the sides of the vessel. It solves the fundamental problem of barbed/razor wire, which is its inherent danger

entering port. The inventors of barriers– a husband-and-wife duo from Britain – called in the Royal Marines to test the design, and after two hours of trying to latch on, the Marines gave up, and the design was declared a success.



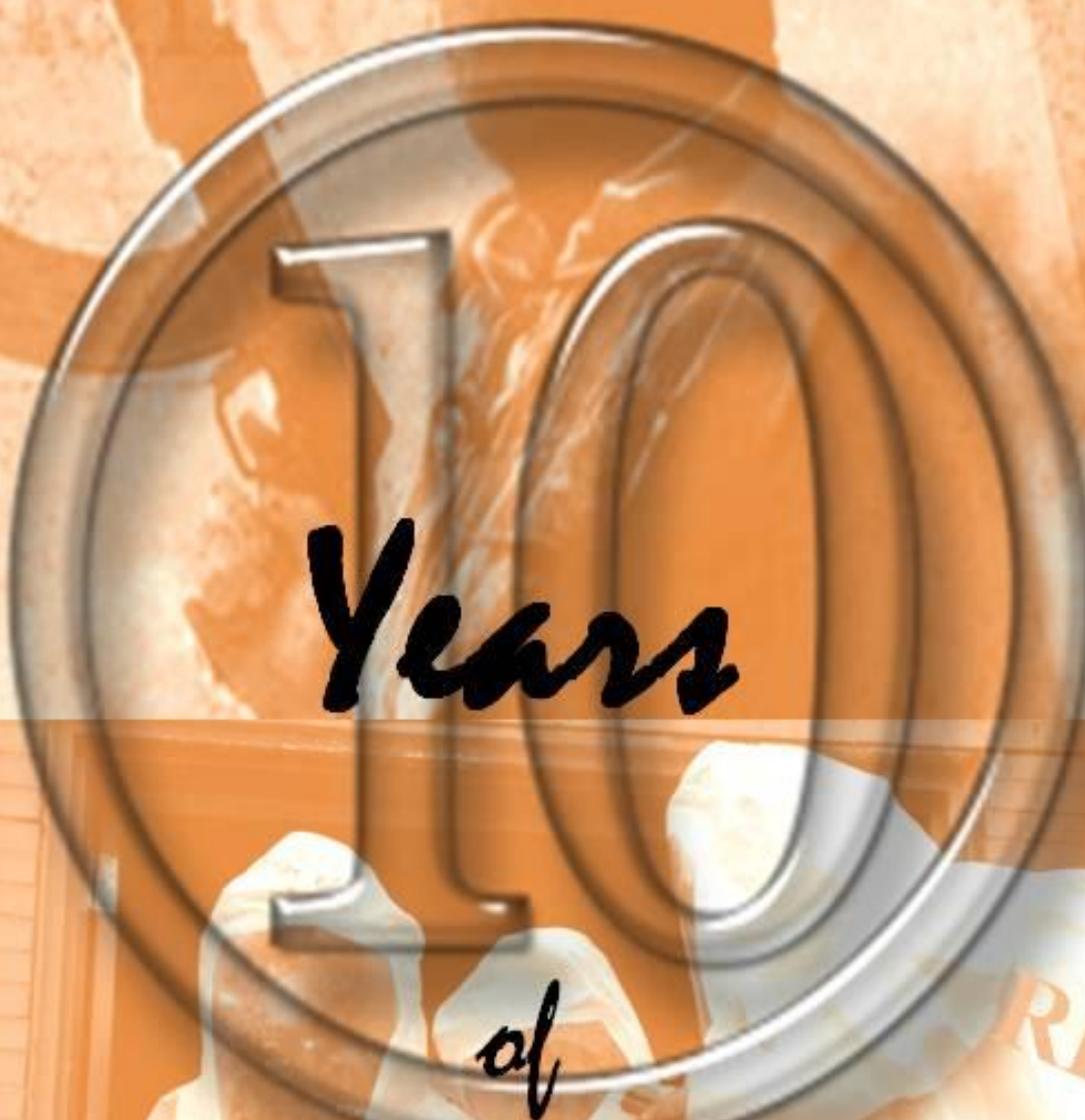


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**WE have to be lucky all the time. THEY have to be lucky only once!**